The



the magazine

get their bacon



WEATHER: Mainly dry



lories stand by their men

SATURDAY 22 MARCH 1997

Constituencies rally behind MPs in sleaze row

Christian Wolmar and Fran Abrams

The Conservative Party, reeling from a fresh sleaze onslaught. esterday went on the offensive rejecting further cash-for-questions allegations, while lo-cal parties rallied behind the MPs at the centre of the scandal.

The four MPs who are standing again - Tim Smith, Neil Hamilton, Sir Andrew Bowden and Michael Brown - seemed to retain the support of their constituencies, despite all of them admitting transgressing parliamentary rules and growng disaffection within the na-

tional party.
One minister said: "There's a real sense of frustration about what is going on: A lot of my col-leagues no longer have an awful lot of sympathy with them. I deeply resent being implicated by association."

John Major, however, fought off claims that he had been dilatory in sacking Mr. Smith when it emerged that he had accepted undeclared payments from Mohamed al Payed, the owner of Harrods. The Prime Minister responded angrily and speedily by saying that he had taken the quickest possible acber 1994, he was alerted to the fact that Mr Smith, then a junior Northern Irclatio minister, had calling as scom and sleazeballs, accepted buildles of £50 notes

to ask parliamentary questions. Despite Mr Major's denial, the damage to the Tories' first by The Guardian from the eviweek of the campaign had been dence given to the inquiry be-done and many of the other ing held by Sir Gordon sleaze allegations revealed in infuriated him. Sir Gordon isleaked papers from Sir Gordon Downey's inquiry into the affair

remained unchallenged. The constituency parties are. teeling surprisingly kindly dis-posed to the MPs. Pat Smith, He implied that the leaks may agent for Sir Andrew Bowden, be misleading because "oral MP for Brighton Kemptown, evidence taken in my inquiry. feeling surprisingly kindly disposed to the MPs. Pat Smith,



Hamilton preparing for an interview yesterday at his Knutsford HQ

Election countdown, pages 8 and 9
Leading article, page 19

don't need assurances, because we have known him ourselves message on the answerphone

questions have been expressing support. The publication of extracts

sued a statement saying: "I deplore the action of certain newspapers and other in selec-

said: "We totally and utterly sup- was itself subject to a process of port him. We are absolutely cer- correction and further expla-

tain, that it isn't correct. We nation by witnesses". He did not say what action would be taken against the newspaper, though he said its use of the evidence sent to it was "against the interests of natural justice" and "a contempt of Parliament".

Mr Smith, in a letter to Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker of the of the Sunday Express on 29 House, said: "I believe this to September 1994 - he set up an be a denial of the fundamental principle of natural justice and a contempt of Parliament and I should be grateful if you will let me know what action you are able to take in this matter."

The Guardian is clearly hoping that when Parliament reconvenes, a Labour-dominated Standards and Privileges Committee would take a more lenient view of its leak than the current one which has a Tory majority of one.

Sir Gordon's criticism was seized on by Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister. "It is increasingly obvious that Mr Tony Blair and the editor of The Guardian have been operating in tandem. I call on Mr Blair to confirm that he respects the view of Sir Gordon Downey and joins me in condemning the actions of The Guardian in selectively leaking evidence in contempt of Parliament," he said.

However, Labour steadfastly refused to condemn the leak and continued pressing for the publication of Sir Gordon's report, which Mr Smith also now backs but clearly it will now remain locked away until the new Parliament resumes in May.

Speaking on the BBC's One O'Clock News, Alan Rus-bridger, the editor of *The* Guardian, defended the publication. "One of the nauseating aspects of this whole thing is that MPs have been confessing dishonesty in private, then going on television in public saying ' am innocent, please vote for me'," he said.

Mr Major took the unusual step of sending over his No 10 press secretary – supposedly a non-party political figure – to brief journalists on his version of events. Mr Major said that as soon as he heard of the allegations about four of his ministers in a private meeting - with Brian Hitchen, the then editor September 1994 - he set up an inquiry conducted by Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary

Sir Robin reported back on 17 October, the Monday after the Conservative party conference, and after a bit more investigation the following day, it was agreed that Tim Smith would have to go. It was to have been announced later that week, and it was a "coincidence" that The Guardian published the story on 20 October, the day Mr Smith resigned.

automatic rifles. The road to the

camp had been gouged out of

the cliffs and precipices by Mr

Bin Laden's followers during

their earlier jihad against the So-viet army, a few metres from me, a 20-foot high air raid shel-

ter - cut for hundreds of metres

through the rock of the moun-

tainside - provided protection against aerial bombing.

dressed in a white turban and

green robes with a Kalashnikov

assault rifle beside him, sat on the floor of a tent lit only by a

sputtering gas lamp. He heaped praise upon the bombers who

Sandi bombings at Riyadh and Al-Khobar - "a great act in

which I missed the honour of

ughtered 24 Americans in the

Mr Bin Laden himself,



Two killed by Tel Aviv suicide bomb

situation.

Patrick Cockburn

A Palestinian suicide bomber filled two Israelis and wounded 47 yesterday when he ex-ploded a bomb packed with nails and ball-bearings at lunchtime yesterday in a café in

the senare of Tel Aviv.

The attack, coming after work started on a new lewish settlement in Jerusalem, puts the agreements between Israel. and the Palestinians in doubt. Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister, accused Yasser Arasat, the Palestinian leader, of releasing from jail

port spicide bombings.

The bomb went off in the Apropos Coffee House, on Ben Gurion Boulevard, in the centre of Tel Axiv, at about 1.45pm Among the injured were children wearing fancy dress to cel-ebrate the Jewish festival of

A judge ruled that food could be withdrawn from a 29-yearold woman suffering a "living death", even though her case did not strictly follow conditions

£630m for the Irish supermarket businesses of Associated British Foods in one of the

new assault on US forces Eastern Afghanistan — From south-east Afghanistan as his his guerrilla redoubt high in the mountains of eastern ouflage jackets and cowled in kuffiah scarves, patrolled the perimeter ridges armed with rocket-propelled grenades and

dependent, the 44-year old bil-lionaire Saudi dissident who led

an army of Arab fighters against

the Soviet occupation of

Afghanistan, claimed that he

had now secured the support of

thousands of Pakistanis for his

jihad - holy war - against US troops in the Gulf. He also ac-

knowledged for the first time

He had, he said, sent faxes to

King Fahd and all main de-

ernment, informing them of

his determination to pursue a

jihad against the Americans; he

even claimed that some mem-

bers of the Saudi royal family

agreed with his demand to ex-

pel the Americans from the

Gulf - an allegation that will

only heighten US suspicions

kingdom covertly support the

I spent the night in Bin

dissident movement.

inred were critically wounded, It was the first suicide bomb in ous Muslim fundamentalist more than a year. Israeli and Palestinian secuenemy – has warned Americans of a renewed onslaught against their forces in Saudi Arabia. rity officers met last night to dis-In an interview with The Incuss the deteriorating security

Israel is demanding the rearrest of leaders of Hamas, the Islamic militant organisation which claimed responsibility for the attack. Mr Arafat may find it difficult to resist a de-mand that Hamas leaders who praised the bombing at rallies in Nablus and Khan Yunis- in Gaza, should not be rearrested.

that his guerrillas had fought street battles against US forces during the ill-fated UN mission The bomber, who was blown apart by the explosion, is believed to have come from a vil-lage near Hebron which is under Israeli control. Hebron partments of the Saudi govyesterday saw the worst riots on the West bank since last September; as boys attacked Israeli soldiers with stones.

Peace hopes buried, page 15

Living-death ruling Tesco buys bigger Tesco made its largest ever acquisition yesterday when it paid laid down by the Royal College ... largest deals in Irish corporate Page 7 history

Laden's guerrilla camp 8,000 Page 24 feet up a frozen mountain in THE BROADSHEET Home News2-13

participating" - and spoke in a chilling, almost inaudible mo-notone of his batred for the American "occupiers" of his country. His claim of Pakistani assistance in his "holy war" will cause deep concern to Americans in Saudi Arabia, where tens of thousands of that some leading figures in the Pakistanis live as immigrant

Astonishingly - in view of his previous threats against British and French troops in the Gulf

Muslim leader warns of a

now provided only a "symbolic presence in Saudi Arabia, at one point praising Britain for not occupying the Arabian peninsula during the First World War.

He claimed that European nations were now distancing themselves from US policy towards Israel, singling out the European vote against Israel in the UN Security Council debate on the new Jewish settlement on occupied Arab land outside But if British and French

troops in the Gulf can now sleep a little easier in their beds - in itself a doubtful premise - the Americans appear to face another spate of bombings. "This is the first time in 14 centuries that the land of the two shrines [Mecca and Medina] has been occupied by non-Islamic forces," he said.

"In the past, the Americans didn't meet with real resistance are a paper tiger." - Mr Bin Laden claimed that from Muslims because scholars

working for the Saudi govern-ment misled the people by saying the Americans were providing them with protection. But now, the Muslim nation understands the truth and Pakistanis have allied themselves with us to expel the Americans: Pakistani religious thinkers are issuing fatwa

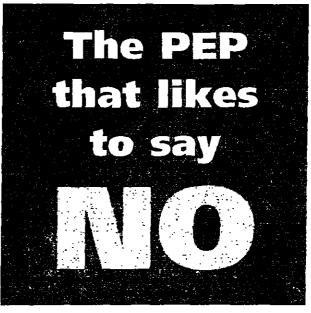
against them."
If Mr Bin Laden's view of America bordered on the eccentric - at one point, he suggested that individual US states might secode from the Union because of Washington's support for Israel - his historical perspective was deeply dislurbing. "We believe that God used our holy war in Afghanistan to destroy the Russian army and the Soviet Union - we did this from the top of this very mountain upon which you are sitting - and now we ask God to use us one more

ca, to make it a shadow of itself. But he was confident, "We also believe that our battle against America is much simpler than the war against the Soviet Union, because some of our mujahedin who fought here in Afghanistan also participated in operations against the Americans in Somalia - and they were surprised at the collapse of American morale. This convinced us that the Americans

time to do the same to Ameri-

Full interview, page 14

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Campaign for jailed Guards attacks lethargy on review

A group campaigning for the early release of two Scots Guards who were jailed for life for killing a Belfast man while on patrol today accused the Northern Ireland office of "dragging their feet"

over reviewing the case.

Supporters of soldiers Jim Fisher and Mark Wright have condemned civil servants and the prison service for "lethargy" in examining the case after High Court judge Mr Justice Girvan ordered a review of the sentence last December. And ex-soldier General Murray Naylor who is leading the campaign called on Northern Ireland secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew to release the two men before the General Election. Wright, 23, from Arbroath and Fisher, 28, from Ayr. have been in custody since they shot dead unarmed Peter McBride while on patrol in the Province in 1992. They were sentenced to life imprisonment after being found guilty of murdering McBride. The trial had heard that they thought the youth was carrying a coffee-jar bomb.

The men's supporters say they have the backing of hundreds of ex-servicemen who have written to their MPs about the case. The release group is planning to send a delegation to Downing Street to hand over letters of support to the Prime Minister.

Pupils at horror school disciplined

Three pupils at the Ridings School, dubbed the worst comprehensive in Britain, were disciplined over allegations that workmen called in to repair broken windows were attacked, the headteacher said vesterday. Calderdale Education Authority confirmed an investigation had been launched into claims that a

van used by the contractors was damaged.

Peter Clark, headteacher at the Ridings in Halifax, West
Yorkshire, said: "There was an incident on Wednesday when mud
was thrown at a van by three children who have been identified and punished." He added: "Reports that a gang of pupils pelted the workmen with stones are widely exaggerated.

The three pupils involved were punished with sessions of

France salutes brave yachtsman



A British lone yachtsman is to be awarded with France's highest medal of honour for bravery after he risked his life to save a rival Frenchman on a stricken boat.

Pete Goss, 35, abandoned his position in a gruelling non-stop round-the-world race after he was informed Raphael Dinelli had sent out an SOS in the Southern Ocean. He changed course and headed for the floundering yacht, 160 nautical

miles away, and pulled Dinelli on board his 50ft vessel Aqua Quorum. President Jaques Chirac has nominated the former Royal Marine for the Legion D'Honneur. France's highest accolade for bravery. He will be awarded with the medal on his return to France today.

A spokesman for Mr Goss, of Torpoint, Cornwall, said; "He is very proud." Mr Goss is the only Briton to have completed the Vendee Globe race, which set off from Les Sables D'Olonne fourand-a-half months ago. He is expected to finish 5th in the race.

index of drug addicts to go

Doctors will no longer be legally bound to inform the Home Office when they treat drug addicts, ministers have announced. Home Office Minister Tom Sackville is to call on Parliament to abolish the Addicts Index, which ensures statistics on drug use are kept up sure groups claim the system has co because doctors are too busy to fill in the forms. The Government plans to close the Addicts Index at the end of March.

Mr Sackville said: "Reliance for information on the nature of drug misuse will henceforward rest mainly on the Department of Health's Regional Drug Misuse Databases." The new system will not lessen the fight against drugs, Mr Sackville pledged.

Bomb scare on Air France jet

Irish Army bomb disposal experts were yesterday examining a suspicious object found in the hold of an Air France Airbus diverted to Shannon Airport in County Clare in the west of Ireland. The aircraft was en route from Paris to Mexico City on Thursday night when the airline received a telephone warning. The object was found once passengers' luggage was identified, after the jet was moved to an isolated area. Alan Murdoch - Dublin

Glasgow sheds 70 in job cuts

Glasgow City Council yesterday announced the loss of 70 jobs as part of cuts to urban community projects - more than 100 fewer redundancies than was feared. A rally outside the City Chambers was heavily policed, to avoid a repeat of last week's stormy demonstration when 1,000 people tried to prevent the council setting its budget.

Master of the short story dies

VS Pritchett, a master of the English short story, has died at age 96. Pritchett died on Thursday at Whittington Hospital, said his son, Oliver Pritchett. Knighted in 1975 for services to literature. Pritchett published more than 40 books of short stories, novels. essays, literary criticism, travel and autobiography. He was noted for his brilliant portraits of people in his stories and journalism. From 1926 he was a contributor to the left-wing weekly New Statesman. His books included a biography of the Russian writer Anton Chekhov and the travel book, Dublin: A Portrait. He edited

the Oxford Book of Short Stories in 1981.

Farmers get paid for sinking feeling

A water company is to compensate farmers whose land has been affected by subsidence caused by groundwater extraction. Severn Trent Water's scheme will allow an independent panel of experts to assess claims for compensation. The new procedure has already been used to assess three test cases, resulting in payments being made. The National Farmers' Union has hailed the move.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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BUCK POUTS



OJ Simpson: Legal costs have stretched his resources. Now he may lose his home

Hard times for Simpson as bank calls him to account

J Simpson will face the ultimate indignity of being turfed out of his Los Angeles mansion if he does not come up with mortgage arrears in the next three months, it emerged yesterday.

A mortgage company has started foreclosure proceedings against the former footballer and film actor because he has missed \$86,000 in payments on his mansion in the exclusive suburb of Brentwood, according to yesterday's New York Post.

Under California law, Simpson has 90 days to pay the money he owes to Hawthome Savings, which financed the house. If he does not pay, the company has the right to sell the property at an advertised public auction.

The exclusive address - 360 Rockingham Avenue - means the two-storey Tudor-style mansion, complete anked by 211-ruk and the Seven Dwarfs, would fetch millions. In 1995, Simpson was cleared in criminal court in 1995 on charges of stabbing to death his former wife,

Nicole Brown-Simpson, and her friend Ronald-Goldman in Los Angeles, in June 1994. But he was held liable for the deaths in civil court this

The selling of the mansion would, however, be com-plicated by the \$19m suit that Ron Goldman's father has filed against Simpson's home. Fred Goldman, who pursued the case against Simpson a in civil court after his acquittal on criminal charges, wants any money from the sale of the house to go toward the \$19m a civil jury awarded him in damages after finding that Simpson was responsible for the deaths.

Mr Goldman's lawyer, Peter Gelblum, was gooded as saying that the mortgage company would have list.

option on the Brentwood estate.

A review of court records showed Goldman was

indebted, the list includes the lawyers who represented Simpson in both the criminal and civil trials.

Laker extends his reach for the sky

Sir Freddie Laker, high-flying king of cut-price air fares, is going upmarket. Yesterday, just over 15 years after the banks pulled the plug on his original airline, he expanded his relaunched operations with a daily flight direct from Gatwick to Miami.

Ever buoyant, Sir Freddle resurrected his airline a year ago, with a limited transatlantic service. The new Laker Airways Inc is a private corporation, formed in 1995, and is owned lointly by Sir Freddie

and a US businessman. Yesterday also saw the launch of a first class service on the airline. Previously his aircraft had an egalitarian one-class system. Sir Freddie shunned business and first class, insisting that telecom improvements would soon do away with the need for business

travel. But the inclusion of this highmargin luxury service is a clear reflection of the need to provide something more than just a cutprice flight in an increasingly competitive market.

up the woolly star.

has expressed an interest.

Dolly the Sheep may already be a double - but can she act the part? The world's first cloned sheep is be-

ing courted by TV and film companies anxious to sign

Staff at the Roslin Institue, in Midlothian, acting as Dolly's agent, have been inundated with requests

from all over the world for the seven-month-old clone

to do everything from appear on magazine-style chat

shows to staring in documentaries. Even Hollywood

"We knew there would be a lot of interest in Dolly

from the scientific world, and we expected some from

the popular press, but the response we got was over-



Sir Freddie, 74, checked-in at Gatwick to join passengers on the first daily Miami flight.

He chatted to them as they queued to board and gave one unhappy traveller an instant £60 cash handout from his own wallet to compensate him for difficulties he had had changing his tickets. Sir Freddie said: "I'm thrilled this morning. It's taken me 15 years to get back to a daily service. I've no time to feel bitter about what happened - that was

yesterday. Now we are thinking of

tomorrow and the day after, and

planning new ways to expand."

Paedophile priest is extradited

The paedophile priest Father Brendan Smyth was yesterday released from prison in Northern Ireland and immediately extradited to the Irish Republic to face 74 charges of sex-

ual assault and indecent assault. The failure of the attorney general's office in Dublin over seven months in 1994 to process the 71year-old Norbertine priest's extradition back to Northern Ireland led to the collapse of the last irish coalition government and the departure

as Taoiseach of Albert Reynolds. The West Belfast-born priest was jailed for four years in June 1994 after pleading guilty in Belfast to 17 charges of sexual offences against five girls and three boys between 1964 and 1988, among them three

members of one family. The first extradition attempt was sought after he declined to make himself available to the RUC.

Yesterday a crowd of 150 shouted abuse as a police convoy brought Smyth to and from the courthouse at Limavady, County Londonderry from Magilligan Prison. The new charges referred to in the extradition warrants alleged offences against 20 victims since 1969 Alan Murdoch, Dublin

oriefing

TRANSPORT

Jambuster plan to abolish road tax and petrol duty

A radical "jambuster" plan to scrap car and fuel taxes and make motorists pay an average £600-a-year in road charges instead was outlined yesterday. Drivers would pay an average of 11.7p per mile in charges which would raise about £30bn to improve roads and public transport, said a research paper from The Centre for Economics and Business Research.

At this rate, it would cost an average car-owner with an annual total of 10,000 miles about £1,200 each year. But £600 of this would be offset by the abolition of the road fund licence and the duty element in the price of petrol, and roads could become virtually

The report's author, Professor Douglas McWilliams, said mads had to be treated like any other public utility, with increased private-sector provision and charging for usage. He suggested investing part of the receipts from charging in improving the road system to increase its efficiency and environmental acceptability.

Other cash from the funds raised could be used to improve public

The Government is currently testing motorway tolling equipment, which is to undergo trials on the M3 in Hampshire, but there has still been no firm decision on whether tolls will be introduced.

HEALTH

Wine buffs in teeth of a dilemma

Wine buffs risk finding that all they have left in their mouth is a sensitive palate, dentists warn today. Slooshing wine around the mouth like the experts do can cause serious erosion to tooth

The British Dental Association highlighted the case of a 52year-old wine merchant referred to Goy's Hospital, London. His teeth were so eroded that the fillings were protruding.

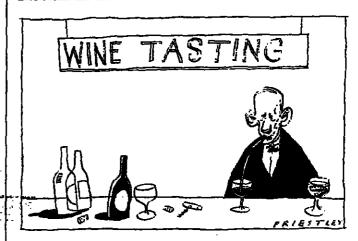
The problem is not tooth decay caused by bacteria, but acid

in the wine eating away the enamel.

The wine merchant had begun tasting wine professionally in 1959, and had tasted an average of 30 wines a day. When he first went to Guy's in 1982, it was calculated that his teeth had been subjected to 245,000 acidic exposures over the previous 23

Reporting on the case in the British Dental Journal, dentists from the hospital said tooth erosion was probably an occupational bazard of wine tasting.

A small volume of wine is rinsed around the mouth to reach every area of the palate before it is spat out. Unfortunately, this



ENTERTAINMENT

Cinemas enjoy blockbuster year

Cinema attendances shot up last year to 112.1 million - the highest for at least a decade. The record confirms a rise in the popularity of film and the reversal of the 1980s trend when the growth of the home video market meant fewer and fewer people bothered

Last year's attendances were boosted by the popularity of films such as Independence Day, Mission Impossible and 101 Dalmatians. However, admissions dipped sharply in the fourth quarter of last year, with a 19.2 per cent fall on the third quarter.

The Office for National Statistics, which released the numbers. also estimated there were 1,757 screens operating in 483 cinemas

But despite the rise in attendances, the new figures are still barely a tenth of those from cinema's heyday in the 1930s and 1940s, before the advent of television.

RAILWAYS

Private operator fails time test

Punctuality rates plummeted on the crisis-stricken South West Trains route last month. The private rail operator, run by bus company Stagecoach, reached 74.1 per cent punctuality for its main line services, against its Passenger's Charter target of 89 per

Its suburban service punctuality figure for February was 85.6 per cent against its charter target of 92 per cent, according to figures supplied by the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising to the pressure group Save Our Railways.

February's reliability figures were also below par on SWT. It cut
39 trains a day from 17 February because of a driver shortage

and faces the threat of a £1m fine unless services improve next

Main-line reliability was 97.6 per cent, against a charter target of 99 per cent while suburban service reliability was 95.8 per cent compared with the charter target of 99 per cent.

HOUSING

Call for 200,000 new homes The Government should undertake to build 200,000 new homes a

year on some of Britain's most derelict land, according to the Royal Institute of British Architects. In a report highly critical of the main political parties, the institute asserts that housing problems are being ignored.

It argues that the next government must develop a unified housing policy, by increasing investment, to end housing ghettos.

The RIBA president, Owen Luder, said: "Housing has all but dropped off the political agenda. Government should view spending on housing as an investment. We need to give incentives to the private sector to provide imaginative housing solutions."

Nicole Veash

in the first half of 1996



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers

whelming," said Dr Harry Griffin, assistant director at Greece Dr450 Switzerland . Sh4.00 Back issues of the Independent are available from Luxembrurg ... 1950 USA \$3,00 Historic Newspapers, relephane 01986 340370, "We have had a wide range of inquiries from people looking to sign Dolly up, either to get her on their

It's Dollywood as Tinseltown sees double television show or do features on her," continued Dr Griffin. "Some of the requests have been rather bizarre, but I don't want to offend anyone by going

into great detail. All I am saying is that I don't think the world is quite ready for Dolly keyrings yet." Whilst the scientists are still reeling from the intensity of interest, Dolly is taking the stardom in her stride. "She seems a very happy, fairly tame sheep and she is getting very the sight of photographers,"

20th Century Fox has contacted the institute to ask the scientists who bred the famous owe from a single cell if they would consider being technical advisors on a film they have in the pipeline, in which cloning will play an important part in the plot. Dr Griffin said he was keeping details of any offers firmly under

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Fine for boy who hacked into Pentagon

Crime Correspondent

A British teedager who got a D grade in A-level computer science was fined yesterday for Senate, where the unknown hacking into United States de "spy" was accused of "causing ience and missile systems and removing files on artificial intelligence and battle manage-

Richard Pives, was only 16 when he used a basic £750 computer from his bedroom in north London to infiltrated

Target

some of America's top securi- ence had used information tak-

Cowboy, Pryce, now 18, was the lieve the case shows the extra-subject of allegations in the US ordinary lax security deployed "spy" was accused of "causing more harm than the KGB" He

security But his solicitor insisted yesprank" and that the teenager with just six months experi-

Thomas's

creator dies

after making

a storybook

fortune

Tank Engine died vesterday. Tank Engine event in February aged 85, more than half a cen- and we had more than 40,000

steam from the national train tional Railway Museum in

trance millions of children and books' success can be found in

Randeen Ramesh

Transport Correspondent

The Reverend Wilbert Vere Awdry, who created Thomas the

tury after his first stories graced

Despite the disappearance of

set, his books about talking. York.

puffing locomotives still en-

have ended up on the stock mar-

ket in a company worth £30m.

est Edwardian terrace in

Stroud, Gloucestershire, where

he had been bed-ridden for

some time. He retired from

writing in 1972 after the first 26

books in the series and the role

was taken over by his son

Thomas was his most fa-mous creation. But his book The

Three Railway Engines centred on three engines, Edward, Gor-

don and Henry and their

trundlings over the Island of

Sodor - a mythical construct sit-

uated near Barrow-in-Furness.

The 40 books have sold more

Japanese and German.

Christopher.

The author died at his mod-

en off the Internet to break into Codenamed Datastream the US networks. Lawyers be-

within US military systems. Pryce was fined £1,200 plus £250 cost yesterday after pleadnas also been described as "The ing guilty to 12 charges of gain-number one threat to US ing unauthorised access to computer systems in March and April 1994. He has now terday that it was a "schoolboy dropped his interest in computers in favour of a double bass which he studies at the Royal

College of Music in London. The first that Pryce's parents, Nick and Alison, knew of their son's activities was when members of Scotland Yard's Computer Crime Unit arrived at the home in Colindale, north Lon-

don, to arrest him. Bow Street Magistrates' Court heard that Pryce managed to hack into the Griffss Air Force Base in New York, where it is alleged he downloaded material about artificial intelligence and battlefield manage-

into the Lockheed Space and Missile Company in California.

The systems he was said to have obtained access to included those for ballistic weapons research, and aircraft design, payroll, procurement, personnel records and electronic mail. The infiltration lead to allegations that a spy had managed to infiltrate secret in-

telligence data. His hacking was described as an example of a growing and se-

curity in reports and testimony to a Senate committee by the

US General Accounting Office. Some of the more outlandish allegations about the effects of Pryce's hacking exploits were later seen as an attempt to obtain extra funding. Indeed, US officials later insisted that Pryce had be unable to access any secret information.

Despite these claims it is understood that the British authorities were considering using a gagging order, to cover part of the hearing, but decided not to bother after the more serious

charges were dropped. Geoffrey Robertson QC, for the defence, said that what the Pentagon had at first suspected a European spy-ring later dis-covered was a 16 year old in north London, "He was riding. rather than surfing, the Internet. He made no profit and there was no subversion of defence

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT

Five great sections for the very best in Sunday journalism



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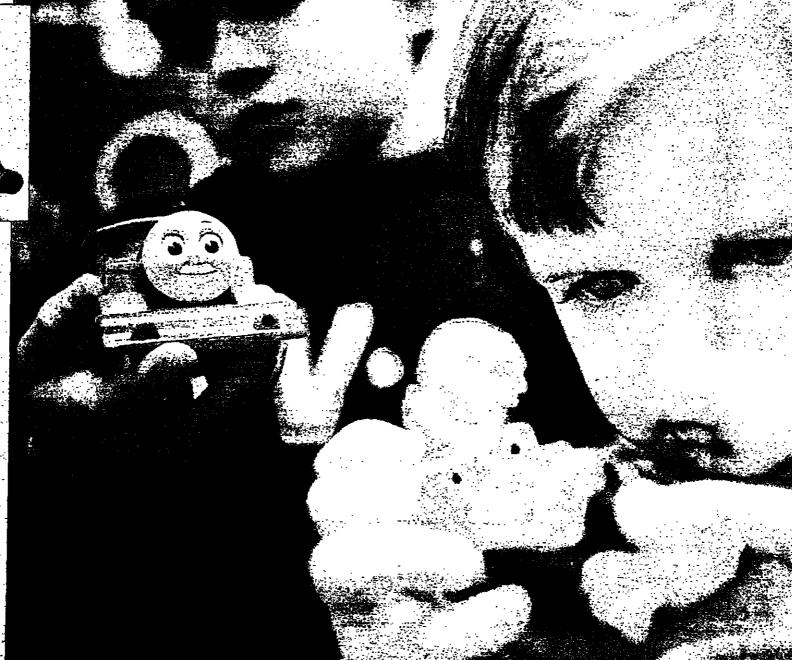
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IT IS. ARE YOU?



Stoked up: Children (above) in Hamleys, London, which has a Thomas the Tank Engine section, and a cover (left)

their origins. The first tales Many experts on the modern were meant to entertain his son. Christopher, during a bout of measles. When Mr Awdry's wife noticed the stories scribbled on the backs of Mother's Union circulars, she got them sent to a literary agent. Overnight in 1945, Thomas steamed up the publishing express line to a

And so Henry the Green Engine, Gordon the Blue Engine, Thomas, the Fat (and Thin) Controller came to life. The slim blue volumes were eagerly snapped up for children deprived of fresh publishing and writing during the war

gine, narrated by the former Beatle Ringo Starr.

Awdry, how popular his books still are. We had a Thomas the

people turn up," said Dieter Hopkin, head of library and

archive collections at the Na-

ork. Perhaps the reason for the

"It is a great tribute to

than 10 million copies world—
The delight of millions of parwide and been broadcast in ents and children did not escape
Japanese and German criticism and controversy.

In an age where children. The books were accused of could biast aliens or surf the In- racism, with references to the ternet, many still choose to sooty black engines, and of sexturn the pages of the books and ual stereotyping, with macho tune in to the televised version hero engines and passive (or arof World of Thomas the Tank Engumentative) carriages named

after women (Annie and Clara-

railways saw Mr Awdry as a relic of yesterday's network. One spoof, written in Modern Railways, a trade magazine, was a pastiche replete with Rastafarian diesels and "socially relevant" locos enlivened with mock-medieval phrases.

The criticism was not always fair. The more recent books written by Christopher Awdrydid incorporate British Rail engines and featured the the exss 125s in later stories. And Mr Awdry's influence was acknowledged by Lord Lloyd-Webber as important in the creation of his Starlight Express

Mr Awdry remained a keen railway enthusiast and eventually became president of the Dean Forest Railway Company. The group, which reopened a line in Gloucestershire, named one of its three steam lothor. The train became the subject of the 38th book in the Thomas the Tank Engine series, Wilbert the Forest Engine, written by Christopher Awdry.

A spokesman for the group said: "He used to come down here to sign his books, and he seemed to be involved with almost every rail-preservation group going.
"He'd been a long-standing enthusiast of the railways and

it seemed quite a common thing for men of the cloth to be interested in that sort of thing. It's a great shame and a sad loss." Asked why rail and church, an odd coupling, were his passions, Mr Awdry said: "Both had their beyday in the mid-nineteenth century; both own a great deal of Gothic-style architecture, which is expensive to maintain; both are regularly assailed by critics; and both are firmly convinced they are the best means of gening man to his ultimate destination."

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Footballer falls foul of the rules as he shows his political colours



Robbie Fowler could be in

trouble with the football authornies after he became the strikers' striker with a show of solidarity for 500 sacked Liverpool dockers during a European Cup-Winners' Cup match on

Fowler, 21, reported to have recently signed a new contract worth £20,000 per week, lifted his Liverpool shirt after scoring his second goal in the 3-0 victory against Norwegian team Brann Bergen, to reveal a T-Shirt underneath which read: "500 Liverpool dockers sacked since 1995." The slogan refers to dock workers sacked in industrial disputes by the Mersey Ports and Harbours Authority.

Rules laid down by Uefa, the sport's governing body in Europe, prohibit players from wearing political slogans or logos and a spokeswoman said rules discourage any show of yesterday: "We are waiting on support during matches." the reports from the match officials, and then the matter will be discussed on Tuesday to see. if there will be any further ac-

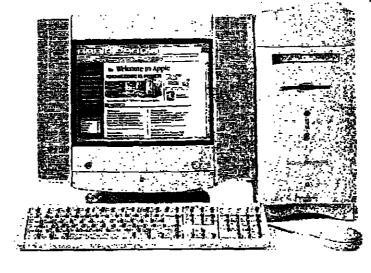
in Liverpool yesterday, Fowler and team-mate Steve McManaman, who provided the shirt, were being hailed as heroes by dock workers.

Bobby Morton, a spokesman for Merseyside Port shop stewards, said: "Our reaction to-Robbie Fowler's display was one of delight as we've suffered an effective media blackout on this issue, and now it's in the

He added: "Robbie Fowler and Steve McManaman are both local lads, they both come from working class families, and we're glad of their support." Mr Morton also said Fowler and McManaman had made financial donations to the sacked workers' hardship fund. However, Fowler's employers

took a dim view of politics on the pitch. "We will be pointing out to all our players that comments on matters outside of football are not acceptable on the field of play," a statement by Liverpool Football Club said. "While players are free to have their own opinions, Uefa

There is little precedent in such cases, although the Swiss national side were cautioned by Uefa in 1995 after wearing a small flag on their kits saying "Stop Jacques Chirac", in protest at France's policy on the testing of nuclear weapons. No fine or further disciplinary action was taken.



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Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

The Tories last night were accused of giving a "pay-off" to the tobacco industry by concluding a voluntary ten-year deal on additives which campaigners said recess, although officials said it would help to keep smokers hooked on the habit.

The tobacco industry is one of the big backers of the Tory Party election fund, and Ian Greer Associates - at the centre of the cash-for-questions scandal - acted as one of the lobbyists in the past.

The deal threatens to reopen the controversy over the relationship between the Conservative Party and the tobac-

Lady Thatcher: Support

co barons during the election. The deal, allowing the industry to continue putting around 600 additives in tobacco products, was slipped out in a written Commons answer hours before the House rose on Thursday night for the election

had been signed on 7 March.
"The additives can release the nicotine in the tobacco which makes it more easily absorbable. You can argue that some of these additives are designed to keep the smoker hooked," said a spokeswoman for Ash, the anti-smoking cam-

paign.
It is another example of the

Government and the industry, come clean about their relawhich is a significant donor to Tory funds. This is probably the

A Department of Health spokeswoman said the additives were to increase flavour to enable the tar levels to be lowered. But Ash said: "There are no real health gains from smoking lower tar cigarettes because smokers tend to inhale more deeply.

It is counter-productive."
Chris Smith, Labour spokesman on health, is committed to banning tobacco advertising as part of Labour's campaign to bring in tougher public health measures and curb the rise in teenage smok-

tionship with the tobacco industry and how much money receive from them," he

The former prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, was paid around £500,000 a year as a con-sultant for Philip Morris. Marlboro also paid \$1m to subsidise an 800-guest, £15,000-a-table 70th birthday party in Washington DC. The Thatcher Founand it had seen a rise in the pro-

dation raised £1.5m.

Mr Smith wrote to Brian

Mawhinney, the Tory Party

Chairman, and a former health minister, this week calling for him to disclose details of the donations from the tobacco in-

the cross-party Commons Public Accounts Committee report, showing that it was dismayed by the rise in teenage smoking", in breach of the targets set in the Government white paper, The Health of the Nation. The committee noted that the Government had failed to reach its 1994 target of six per cent of 11-15-year-olds smoking,

portion of smokers in this age group to 12 per cent.
The Tobacco Manufacturers' Association was unable to provide details of the additives last night. There is nobody here that can explain that," said a

cosy relationship between the ing. "The Conservatives must dustry to party funds. History of cash and support

Paul McCann

The Conservative Party has a long history of receiving cash and assistance from tobacco companies, especially during general elections.

Since just before the last election the party has been given at least £500,000 from the industry according to Labour Research, a trade union-funded research body.

Lord Hanson's Imperial Tobacco gives £100,000 every year to the party while Rothmans International gave £100,000 before the last election. Labour Research cannot be sure that the Tories do not also receive

funds from the tobacco industry through overseas subsidiaries it cannot track.

British-American Tobacco has said it does not donate to actual parties in the UK, but has admitted to funding right-wing think tanks. Lord Hanson's support has been especially strong, although he is understood to have become disillusioned with the party since it ousted Mrs Thatcher as leader.

At the last two general elections, Imperial turned over as many as 2,000 poster sites to the Tories as soon as the election was called. Because cigarette advertisers are banned from using television, the tobacco compa-

nies traditionally dominated the outdoor advertising market and had the best-positioned hoardings signed up in long-term deals. This gave the Tories a con-siderable advantage when the

scramble to book sites started. The links between tobacco companies and the Tories include paid MPs. Sir Jim Lester, MP for Broxtowe, is a paid par-liamentary consultant for BAT Industries, earning between £10,000 to £15,000. Rothmans pays Harold Elletson, Conservative MP for Blackpool North £10,000 to £15,000 as an advis-

er, while Nirj Deva, Conserva-

tive MP for Brentford and

Isleworth takes no fee as an ad-

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viser to the same company. Former Home Secretary Kenneth Baker is a non-executive director of Hanson plc.

After the last general election the Tobacco Manufacturers Association, the industry's representative body, renegotiated its voluntary agreement with the government on the regulations

that cover tobacco advertising. The tobacco industry agreed to cut back its spending on advertising on posters by 40 per-cent and agreed to take down posters from anywhere near schools. It also agreed to remove its advertisements from magazines read by young women under the age of 24.



Shock tactics: One of the five dramatic posters in the latest Dutch anti-smoking campaign aimed at reducing the numbers of teenagers who smoke Photograph: Reuters

All companies now under siege in US

David Usborne New York

The once-invulnerable tobacco industry is under siege in the United States in the wake of admissions by the Liggett Group, that smoking can be lethal and that it has marketed cigarettes to children.

David Kessler, the former head of the Food and Drug Administration, turned the spotlight yesterday on the practice of luring children into the nicotine habit. California, mean-while, unveiled a \$22m (£13.6m) television and billboard advertising campaign that aims to villify the cigarette companies.

Now cast as the turncoat of his own industry, Bennett LeBow, the owner of Liggett, was expected to release a personal statement acknowledging past sales efforts aimed at children and pledging to end the policy. "Liggett condemns this practice and will not market to :hildren," a draft of it said.

Mr LeBow's statement will serve as a dramatic personal postscript to Liggett's historic de-

the 22 US states that are suing the entire industry for billions of dollars in damages for the cost to taxpayers of treating victims

of smoking-related diseases. A court hearing is set for 31 March for the other four main tobacco companies to seek to prevent Liggett from handing over potentially explosive documents to help the states pur-sue their lawsuits. The documents threaten to demonstrate that the companies col-

hided over three decades to cover up what they knew about the addictive and medicallydamaging nature of cigarettes. Liggett has already released to the media some excerpts which it believes are not subject

to any court restraining order. One 1966 document debates witholding information about the cancer risks. "How far would publication affect the likeli-hood of proceedings being instituted?" it begins. "In the short term it is obvious that nonpublication of the report could have no practical effect unless and until it became know that

cent resignation drove efforts by the US government to subject cigarette sales to strict controls. predicted widespread public disgast with the revelations now being made by Liggett.

For one of the major tobacco companies to admit that they marketed to children, that's striking," he said yesterday. "I think it will make the average

person just angry.

Brown & Williamson, the number-three producer in the US and a subsidiary of Londonbased British American Tobacco, is joining with Philip Morris and RJR Nabisco to try to minimise the damage from the Liggett move. The credibility of Liggett will be attacked because the company joined the whole industry in telling Congress in 1993 that cigarettes were not addictive.

"It does not take a rocket scientist to to see that testimony offered for the first time as part of a settlement arrangement will have a credibility probkem," claimed David Bernick, a the [cancer] data were available lawyer representing Brown &

This is the start of the facade cracking' reasons. The UK and US firms

Liggett's admission that cigarettes do cause cancer and are addictive is likely to boost the cause of people in this country who are trying to sue the obacco manufacturers.

Twenty three people, all suffering from lung cancer and aged from their mid-50s to their early 70s, are suing Gallahers and Imperial Tobacco for not warning them of the dangers of

smoking when they took it up. They are being represented on a "no-win, no fee" basis by solicitor Martyn Day, as legal aid has been turned down. The cases are expected to come to court in about 18 months' time.

Mr Day said yesterday: "This admission will help us to prove to the courts in the UK that the firms knew the truth but refused to accept it for public relations

have always acted together in issues of health and maintained a unified position - this is the start of the facade cracking. It is now likely that many more people will jump on the band-wagon of taking legal action

against them." The admission by Liggett was also welcomed by the British Medical Association. Ash (Action on Smoking and Health), the Cancer Research Campaign and the British Lung Foundation.

Dr Sandy Macara, chairman of the BMA, said: "At last the tobacco industry is being forced to come clean about its marketing tactics. Today's young people are being cynically exploited and their future endangered."

Amanda Sandford, a spokeswoman for Ash, said: "After decades of denial and deceit, the tobacco industry is finally being manufacturers:

highly addictive and that smoking causes cancer and other

Dr John Moore-Gillon, chairman of the British Lung Foundation, said: "Liggett's move is likely to be motivated by cynical business calculations rather than a miraculous conversion to decent civilised behaviour. But whatever the reasons, this is a great step forward for people damaged by smoking and for the millions of children not yet hooked on the habit."

And Jean King, head of education at the CRC, said: "This represents a remarkable Uturn by the tobacco industry and vindicates the strong stand that agencies like the CRC have taken for many years now - often in the face of aggressive, almost bolly-boy tactics - by cigarette



mal

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ا هكذا من الأصل

as coma woman allowed to die a "slippery slope". But the consider withdrawal of nutrition judge, in his ruling said that all and hydration from an individ-

Legal confusion

تعكدًا من الأصل

The medical world was thrown into confusion vesterday when a judge ruled that food and bydration could be withdrawn from a 29-year-old woman, even though doing so would not strict-ly follow rules laid down by the Royal College of Physicians.

The woman, known as Miss D. was suffering a "living death" and the time had come for "merciful relief," said Sir Stephen Brown, President of the High Court Family Division. The case breaks new ground

because in previous cases where doctors have applied to turn off life-support machines of seriously brain-damaged patients. the victims have been in a "per-sistent vegetative state" (PVS). Miss D was not considered by

expens to be in a PVS because she could track movement with her eyes and responded to cold

James Munby QC, who was appointed to represent the voman's interests, told Sir Stephen that the reason the Royal College had been anxious to identify what he had called a "bright line" over which the boundaries should not be A furniture expert at Christie's in South Kensington, London, preparing a 'Moloch' lamp for a modern-design sale at the auction house on Wednesday. Designed by Italian artist and film-maker, Gaetano Pesce, the giant lamp is estimated at £6,000 to £8,000 Photograph; Tony Buckingham always a danger of going down would be ethically acceptable to

the consultants, doctors, medleal team and family were agreed that Miss D had no awareness of her surroundings or herself, and all the evidence was that there was 'no possi-bility of any meaningful life whatsoever . Sir Stephen said that he did not feel he was altering the boundaries of who could be allowed to die. "I am driven to the conclusion ... that it is in this patient's best inter-

keeping her body alive." But the judgement was condemned by the anti-euthanasia group. Alert, which said the "barbaric practice" of cutting off life support systems to braindamaged patients should be hanned. Dr Peggy Norris, chairwoman of Alert, said; "With-

est to withdraw the artificial

feeding and hydration which is

holding food and fluids from a person capable of experiencing thirst had been used as a form of torture. The British Medical Association took the view, however, that the judgement did not extend the categories of patients

from whom nutrition and hy-

dration can be withdrawn. "It is

ual who has permanently lost his or her sentience and aware-

ness," a spokesman said. Miss D was at university when she was seriously injured in a road accident in 1989. She recovered enough to walk round 1995 was found unconscious in her bed, probably having had an epileptic fit. She has never subsequently recovered consciousness.

This week her feeding tube had become dislodged, and a small operation would have been needed to replace it. Consequently the hospital trust caring for her had applied to the court for a declaration that it was lawful to "discontinue all life sustaining treatment." Its request was upheid.

A spokesman for the Royal College of Physicians said the decision had caused confusion. "We set up a working group to produce guidelines, in order to help doctors in a difficult situation. But they are only guidelines and the judge is not obliged to follow them. The judgement does not change them, but it seems to be lead-

New inquiry into child abuse claims

Glenda Cooper Social Affairs Correspondent

Detectives are to launch a fresh inquiry into child abuse allegations following the conviction of ing convicted of 15 child-abuse the paedophile care-worker charges.

Keith Laverack, it was revealed. A jury heard that he had bused children in his care duranteed abused children in his care duranteed.

the heart of a police investigation into more than 500 separate allegations of abuse, which has already seen twelve paedophiles tried and convicted.

Now Cambridgeshire police of children's homes in the county. Allegations were made against two other social-ser-

vices staff in Cambridgeshire during the trial. Police say they have also received several telephone calls in the wake of Lav-

Laverack, 52, a social services manager with Cambridgeshire County Council, was jailed for 18 years at Chester Crown Court two weeks ago after be-

yesterday.

Laverack's case, described ing 30 years as a teacher and by Judge Hirw Daniel at headmaster at children's homes Chester Crown Court as the in Cambridgeshire and Chesh-most serious of its kind that he ire. He began his paedophile cacould remember, has been at reer as soon as he joined the staff of Greystone Heath, an approved school in Warrington, and commued, as he rose to be-

manager, until 1987. Laverack denied the 20 specsay they are investigating fresh imen charges against him. But allegations by former residents the jury found him guilty on 11 counts of buggery and four of indecent assault after almost nine hours of deliberation at Chester Crown Court. Many of his victims were in court and broke into applause as he was

As he passed sentence, Judge

anarchy, food is being looted

orphanages by armed gangs.

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children we can reach.

How Daniel told Laverack: "You were confident you could get away with it because the system allowed you to get away with it, and you ensured the silence of these children by in the knowledge that if these children did complain they

would not be believed." Det Supt Iah Negus said a new team of officers had been set up in Cambridge to investigate allegations "against a num-

ber of people" The cases have snowballed since an initial complaint made by a young man who walked into a police station in Cheshire three years ago and have spread to 14 other forces from Scotland to the south of England.

In Cheshire and Merseyside more than 5,000 former children's home residents have been traced and in Cheshire alone 500 complaints of sexual and physical abuse have been made against 111 former care

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Moby, the giant sperm whale, was last night thought to be heading for the safety of the open seas after a rescue operition off the Scottish coast. Volunteers succeeded in shepherding the 40-foot mam-mal eastwards up the Firth of (WORTH £49.99) WITH Forth and away from the dan-THE NEW NOKIA 1611 gers of the upstream shallows. Three more sperm whales DIGITAL PHONE were seen in the area last night and experts said that if the sightings were confirmed, it could indicate Moby's com-

panions were waiting for him to By a stroke of fortune, Moby had lost his way in an area close to where experts were on hand at the Deep Sea World sea life aquarium at North Queensfer-

ry, Fife.

He had first been sighted in the area on Thursday night, apparently stranded on a sandbank near the Forth rail bridge. Drivers and animal welfare

experts were alerted but the

whale was able to move off the sandbank on a changing tide and was at that point thought to be clear of danger. But yesterday he was spotted further up river and fears rose that he could swim into serious

danger if he went into shallow

Volunteers in boats shepherded him in the hope that the noise from the engines would persuade him to head down-

Keith Todd, curator of the Deep Sea World centre, said the actic appeared to be working. "The whale was spotted east of Grangemouth but at the moment he is making very good

progress down river," he said.

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election countdown

Threat to means-test child benefit is lifted

The Tory threat to means-test child benefit was lifted yesterday with a pledge to raise it in line with the inflation rate for

The proposed Family Benefit Guarantee, costing £1bn. will be the centrepiece of Tory promises on the family in its election manifesto, which was endorsed by the Cabinet on Thursday for release after Easter. It was leaked to deflect attention from the row over

alleged Tory sleaze.
The Tories will also pledge for the first time to raise family credit in line with inflation. The decision to inflation-proof child benefit by Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary, ends the threat raised during Baroness Thatcher's period of office to means-test it. She was prevented from taxing child benefit or limiting it to those on low incomes by a 1987 election commitment Mr Lilley reviewed the idea, but decided it was unworkable after the introduction of separate taxation for men and women. The Tory MP Peter Bottomley led the campaign to protect child benefit from attacks on the grounds that it went to the richest families. Its supporters insisted that keeping it as a universal benefit ensured maximum take-up by

those who needed it. The Tories have also taken a strategic decision that limiting it to families on low incomes would hurt their own core supporters in the middle classes.

Mr Lilley challenged Labour to back the proposals. But the shadow social security secretary, Harriet Harman, publishing new figures on child poverty, said: "The Tories claim that their Family Benefit Guarantee shows they are the party of the family. But this government's record on the family has been

She said the number of children being brought up in poverty had more than tripled under the Tories - rising to nearly 4.5 million, about one in three, in families on income support and family credit in 1996 from 1.1 million, or about one in 10, in

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te rate, currently 2,25% (APR 7,5%). The total gross amount payable is £113,022. It is assumed that TSS Property Plus, TSS Mortgage

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families on their predecesso benefits in 1979.

A third of all families had to rely on means-tested benefits when they had a baby, while two-thirds of children living in poverty in Britain were being raised by lone mothers living on about £100 a week. She said the Government had inflicted "a double failure" on such chil-dren, by failing to help lone mothers get work and failing to make absent fathers pay.

The Liberal Democrat

spokeswoman, Liz Lynne, said: This has more to do with political posturing than with any firm commitment to help people on benefit." She also criticised Labour for proposing ending scrapping child benefit for children staying on at school after 16 to fund means-tested help with an educational allowance for lower income families. "The Tories should now come clean on their plans for other benefits which are not automatically uprated each year by prices, such as Income Support and Disability Working Al-



Making a meal of it: Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, doing the rounds with prospective candidate Eleanor Laing at a

Pro-European Tories ready to defend Emu

Chief Political Correspondent

Pro-Euro Tory MPs are ready to repudiate the Prime Minister, if he rules out Britain's entry into the single European currency in the heat of the

John Major is under pressure from Euro-sceptics in the Cabinet to harden the Government's "wait and see" policy on the single currency to steal a march on Labour during the

But a 50-strong group of Tory MPs are ready to disown any move by the Prime Minister to ditch that policy in an attempt to outflank Tony Blair. We would also ask Kenneth Clarke [the Chancellor] to repudiate it," said one of the leadwould destroy any hope of the addresses. Peter Temple-Mor- low Mr Major in hardening Tories holding to a united line on the single currency.

The MPs have privately spoken to the Chancellor about the policy. "He is adamant that there will be no change in the policy," said one MP.

A letter signed by more than 50 Tory MPs was handed into the Government shortly before Mr Major called the elec-tion, to reinforce their demands for the Government to stick to its agreed policy on Europe during the election.

Some pro-Euro Tory MPs refused to sign the declaration on the grounds that it was not strong enough. They fear that the Prime Minister may be persuaded to rule out a single currency by the number of Tory Euro-sceptics who are prepared

ris, leader of the Macleod group of "one nation" Tory MPs will make a commitment in his election address to enter a single

Malcolm Rifland, the Foreign Secretary, described the single currency as "extraordinarily dangerous" in The Hague this week, raising expectations of a tougher Cabinet policy. Mr Rifkind warned that the issue could divide the European Union for a generation.

Senior ministers believe it could transform the Tories' electoral hopes, and close the gap with Labour before polling day, if Mr Major campaigned on the theme of saving the pound", with the threat that Labour would negotiate it away.

the policy on the single currency. The Labour leader says in the New Statesman there are "a lot of formidable obstacles" to monetary union.

hat

Bundesbank leaders have intensified the pressure on the Government from the Eurosceptics to rule out the single currency by making it clear the convergence criteria will be "fudged", by refusing to accept duce public debt in Germany to below three per cent of its Gross Domestic Product.

The Chancellor and the Foreign Secretary reached an unwas "hostile to a fudge" after Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, insisted that the Gov-However, senior Labour ernment was against the single

Abortion fails the political test

Our poil gave voters a choice of two statements: 76 per cent agreed that: "Abortion is a moral issue and should be kept right out of politics." Only 14 per cent opted for the alternative: "Abortion is a political as well as a moral issue and the political parties should make it clear whether they are pro- or anti-abortion." The remaining 9 per cent did not know, according to this week's Indepen-

dent/Harris poll. The findings suggest the electorate has no truck with Thomas Winning, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Glasgow, who has attacked Tony Blair over his support for the present abortion law. The Pro-Life Alliance also looks doomed in its bid to stand 50 candidates on a policy of absolute opposition to abortion. A spokesman for Cardinal Winning said: "Was it politicians

it? We have seen 4.25m abortions take place overwhelm-

ingly for social reasons as a result of a political decision." Mr Blair, the Labour leader, has said he personally is opposed to abortion but that he does not believe he should legislate to force women to have unwanted children. The Labour Party leaves the issue to the conscience of individual MPs.

Bruno Quintavalle, director of the Pro-Life Alliance, said: This shows the need for our campaign to change attitudes. Abortion is the most political of all issues because it is about the value of human life."

Other poll evidence has shown a trend over the past two decades towards more liberal views on abortion, with a clear majority agreeing that women should have the right to choose. Harris Research interviewed 1,016 adults in their homes between 14 and 17 March.

significant shorts

Bernie Grant's foe faces deselection

The prospective Conservative candidate standing against Bernie Grant is about to be desciected. Derek Laud, 33. is accused by the party at his constituency of Tottenham, North London, of almost total failure to meet voters. He refused to meet the press for a photo-call and sent a picture of himself with John Major instead. He also told the local party he would be out of the country on 31 March. the date chosen by his constituency for the adoption }meeting. Now four of his 10 legally required nomineds are thinking of standing down; the party is expected to reopen the candidates' list

Kim Sengupta

Churchill writes off politics

Winston Churchill, MP for Davyhulme, Manchester, who lost out in boundary changes and has since failed to be selected in five other constituencies, said he intended to return to a career in journalism.

Labour dogged

A Labour campaigner had part of her finger bitten off by a dog as she pushed a leaflet through a letterbox in Stourbridge, West Midlands. The dog's owner packed the finger in ice but doctors could not sew her finger back on because they were concerned about infection.



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Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

The Tory election strategy was blown off course yesterday by the row over sleaze, infuriating John Major and close Cabinet coffeagues over the way their attempt to seize the initiative in the campaign had been wrecked. Tory election planners had set the focus on "British excellence" as the

theme of the first week of campaign-

ing but it ended with the focus firm-

ly on allegations of Tory sleaze.

Mr. Major and his wife Norma

toured Gatwick airport yesterday in an attempt to highlight the success of the Tory privatisation programme, with British Airways and the Gatwick Express rail service. But they could not escape questions about alleged

While the Majors may have felt like joining the holidaymakers jetting away from the elections to the sun, Labour Party advisers said the Tories have wasted the first week of the campaign by becoming mired in the sleaze row, and will be forced this weekend to rethink their strategy.

"Sleaze is playing well out in the . may also refocus their own campaign is on a campaign tour of Britain. "We are getting voters saying they will switch because of Tory sleaze.

Another week of sleaze allegations could leave the Tories too much ground to make up by polling day on I May, with the prospects of Labour's lead in the polls turning into a rout, and a landslide for Tony Blair.

That fear could lead the Tory campaign strategists to escalate their attacks on Labour next week. Labour

country," said one source close to be keep the Tories on the run this John Prescott, the deputy leader, who weekend. "We might go for the 'honest John' image," said a Labour source. "Maybe John Major in a sheepskin coat.

The deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, was so angry with the accusations this week that he stormed into Downing Street and confronted startled cameramen outside Number 10 with furious denials.

However, his angry protests were in vain. The television camera had broken down and there were no reporters in Downing Street to report his outburst.

Mr Major's campaign began brightly with the Prime Minister on his soan box in Luton, but the Tory campaign organisers were privately criticised for their failure to spot potential photo-opportunity pitfalls as Mr Major was required to pose next to a racing car with no wheels, and, during a four of a minor pub-

lic school, a how dangling from a tree. He is learning fast, however. Mr Major avoided being caught by the

rubber doll bearing a remarkable re-semblance to Mr Heseltine.

Mr Major was deeply upset by crit-icism of his wife, who cheerfully posed for the photographers at McLaren but was described in one report as "glum". It was pointed out that Mrs Major's mother is ill, and she may not be able to stay by her husband's side every day of the election campaign because of her family commitments.

The press pack following Mr Major was limited to two reporters yes- close the gap with Labour.

sociation, as the Tory strategists sought to put Mr Major's campaign back on track, but it was impossible to shake off the mud that has been thrown in the sleaze row.

After starting defiantly in Luton, Mr Major's campaign team will look on the past 48 hours as a disastrous end to their first week on the campaign trail. One senior Tory source said they were hoping that the worst was now over, but it amounts to a wasted week, when time is short to

Trail that leads from two men's battle

Christian Wolmar Westminster Correspondent

It started in Mohamed al-Fayed's sumptuous office in Harrods and by last night was stalling the start of the Conservative offensive in the election campaign.

The battle between Mr Fayed and Lonrho's Tiny Rowland for the Knightsbridge store led to lobbyist Ian Greer dispensing money to some 40 MPs and candidates, mainly Tory, as Mr Fayed sought political support in the Commons.

Flush with Mr Fayed's cash, Mr Greer paid for questions to be asked in Parliament, and meetings to be arranged with

Sir Michael Grylls, the Tory MP with whom he had a long-standing relationship received at least £86,000 in payments from Mr Greer. Other Tory MPs

6 Mr Fayed couldn't understand why

all the money he had paid out had not reaped any benefits 9



Mohamed al-Fayed: Alerted journalists to cash handouts

who received cash include Neil Hamilton, who now admits having received £10,000 from Mr Greer without declaring it; Tim-Smith, MP for Beacousfield, who resigned as Northern Ireland minister when it emerged he had accepted cash to ask questions for Mr Fayed (sum later estimated at between £18,000 and £25,000): Sir Andrew Bowden, MP for Brighton Kemptown who admits that he received election expenses of £5,319 which were not declared on his election return or with the register of members' interests: and Michael Brown, MP for Cleethorpes, who admits receiving £6,000 from Mr Greer to lobby for a manufacturer of tobacco chewing gum and not-

declaring it on the register. Five other Tories are still under investigation by Sir Gordon

31.

 ply that there is any substance to the allegations against them. They are: Sir Peter Hordern, who is standing down, Lady Olga Maitland, Norman Lam-ont, Gerry Malone and Nirj

benefits. Back home in Egypt, he would have got anything done for that kind of money. Eventually, he began to tell his tales to journalists

In September 1994, he summoned Brian Hitchen, editor of the Sunday Express to his office and told him the tales of cash

Major to the allegations, and the Prime Minister set up an inquiry headed by Sir Robin Butler, the

days before Si Butler's inquiry was published, towards the end of October the Guardian ran a story about cash for questions involving Mr Smith and Mr Hamilton, Mr Smith held up his hands and went quickly, but Mr Hamilton demurred, and only eventually resigned because, according to Mr Major, there were other allegations to be investigated.

don Downey, the Parliamentary whose post had been created as a result of the Nolan Commit-Mr Fayed's allegations. Sir Gordon began an inquiry which he was to have presented to the Standards and Privileges Com-mittee, another Nolan innovation which had taken over from the old Members' Interest Committee and combined with

Downey but Sir Gordon has stressed that this does not imtakeover battle.

Mr Fayed also wanted to be a British citizen, but was being

blocked. He couldn't understand why all the money he had paid out had not reaped any

for questions and other allega-tions against MPs. He specifically named Neil Hamilton and Mr Hitchen alerted John

Cabinet Secretary.
While many of Mr Fayed's al-

legations may have proved un-founded, his scattergun approach hit a few targets and led to the libel case which was to expose the murky relationship between MPs and lobbyists to the public gaze.

Mr Hamilton and Mr Greet launched a libel campaign against the Guardian that was to prove their undoing. Days before it was due to reach court in October 1996, first Mr Greer, then Mr Hamilton pulled out. The focus turned to Sir Gor-

Commissioner for Standards, tee, itself set up as a result of

the Privileges Committee. Sir Gordon amassed another set of documents and was ex-pecting to present his findings to the committee next Tuesday. But the unexplained 19-day in in February 1989 of the payments. Pressed on gap between the prorogation (the suspension of activity) and the dissolution of Parliament on 8 April meant that the committee had no chance to delib-

As a result of that, the documents were leaked yesterday, sparking off another round in the saga that started because Mr Payed got the better of Mr Rowland in the Harrods



defend true-blue territory

Michael Streeter

Former Tory minister Tim Smith promised yesterday to "keep on fighting" after more disclosures about the money he took from Mohamed al-Fayed. Speaking at his constituency

home in Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, Mr Smith re-sponded to charges in the Guardian that he had taken between £18,000 and £25,000 from the Harrods owner, saying: "I have written to the Speaker about what I believe to be a contempt of Parliament and a fundamental abuse of the rights of

natural justice. He added that he now thought it would have been better it Sir Gordon Downey's report had been published in full rather than the publication of stories which were full of inaccuracies and based on "totally .unacceptable" leaks.

Responding to allegations that the Government knew about his receipt of cash before he became a Northern Ireland whether this information was or should have been - passed on to John Major when he became a minister he replied: "The Prime Minister in 1989 was not erate on it before the election. John Major. I have no reason to think that he was aware of this. That is why I take strong

exception to the way the Guardian has portrayed it." The MP said he would be de-24,000 - the third safest Tory going to fight on," he said.

Earlier Mr Smith had handed out prizes at the local Iver Heath primary school to pupils for good behaviour and improvement in performance. Last night, he faced a potentially rougher ride at the coincidental annual general meeting of the Conservative Association in

nearby Gerrard's Cross. Malcolm Dunlop, vice-chairman of the Beaconsfield town branch of the association, said he expected the fresh allegations to be raised at the meeting. "I will be surprised if someone did not raise it, it's topical." But he added that he was unaware of any new move to de-select the MP, who has served as a mem-

Sitting tight: Tim Smith in Beaconsfield yesterday

6 2 0

street in the country – on both national and local issues. "I'm ber since 1982, as the allegations told of the earlier figures of beneational and local issues. "I'm contain "nothing new" from tween £2,000 and £6,000. contain "nothing new" from November 1995 when the association "overwhelmingly" voted to keep him.

Other sources suggested. however, that two-fifths of the association had not wanted him to continue then.

Mr Dunlop conceded: "Had there been new allegations there would have been considerable concern. But [at the 1995 meeting) he seems to have been extraordinary open and

frank about the payments."
Last night, Labour said they were angry that while Mr Smith might have told his association that he had received at least £18,000 from Mr Fayed, his constituents had not been made aware of it and had only been

The Labour candidate, Alastair Hudson, said that at a head-to-head public meeting with Mr Smith last November. the MP had been challenged on the issue but had made no attempt to update the electorate on the true figures involved.

A Tory voter who asked not to be named said she was "very disappointed" that the affair had resurfaced. But she added: "We gave him another chance last time - I suppose we'll give him another chance now.

Pensioner Ernest Leslie, a rare Labour voter, said: "It won't make much difference: the Tories will still win bere. If you put a blue rosette on a donkey they'd vote for it.

Hamilton finds friends among the faithful

Ros Wynne-Jones

The bowling green behind the Tatton Conservative Association in Knutsford was empty yesterday, the office doors battened against the slines and arrows of angry constituents and waiting journalists.

But last night, below ground in a bunker-like meeting room, the party faithful were rallying round Neil Hamilton.

The Cheshire MP was in fighting form - veering be-tween a barrage of humorous insults against his tormentors. The Guardian and Mohamed Al Fayed, and a robust defence of his personal integrity.

"I never took any money from Mr Al Faved and that comes out unambiguously in the inquiry," he said quietly. But the shaking of his hands as he pointed to highlighted paragraphs of the disputed transcript belied the conviction in his

Mr Hamilton said the "cornerstone" of the allegations made against him two and a half years ago at the outset of the "cash-for-questions saga" as he refers to it, had been disproved the day before in the Standards Committee report which exon-erated 15 high-profile ministers from accepting money from Mr Fayed. This is exactly the lobbyist Ian Greer] was sup-posed to have given to me," he us both. One of the reasons 1 ry for the man.

suggest that they print the full transcript of the evidence of Mr Al Fayed, a full transcript of which I've got here, is that it will reveal the allegations are made up." Mr Hamilton denied he was at any risk of deselection at the constituency's annual meeting last night, and he had a mesS

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sage for disloyal constituents. There are people in this country who believe that because something appears in a newspaper in this country it must be true. My experience in the past two years is precisely the reverse.

"I would just say to those who privately think it would be better for me to stand down ... what has happened to one of the cardinal principles of this country, that a man is innocent un-யி proven guilty?"

The early signs last night were that Mr Hamilton would weather the desclection crisis ahead.

A local party insider said: "Frankly, we have considered getting rid of Neil and we could easily do so without affecting our chances of winning the

"We could put almost anyone up ... it's a standing joke in Tatton that we could put up a monkey in a blue jacket in these Mr Fayed. "This is exactly the that we don't want to - we'd same money that Mr Greer [the rather have Neil. We've watched him being crucified over the last two years and, to said. "He can't have given it to be honest, most of us feel sor-

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ANDREW NEIL. HEAD OF PRIME **MINISTER BLAIR'S POLICY UNIT**

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Contributors this week: Brian End, Fay Weldon, Will SELF, IAN JACK, DES WILSON, JOHN ELDYB, JOHN REMPERYS,

Bank of England gold 'was looted in Holocaust'

lan Burrell

Millions of pounds' worth of Nazi gold held in the vaults of the Bank of England was looted from Holocaust victims, according to a report published

yesterday. The Holocaust Educational Trust said its report contained new evidence which showed that the gold should be returned to the survivors and their families. Some of the gold bars included metal from items like gold teeth and jewellery which the Nazis had stripped from Jews.

The report, which is based on a detailed study of British government and Nazi archives, said the Bank of England gold should not be given to the gov-

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ernments of countries who are claiming reparation for Sec-ond World War losses inflicted **by Germany**. Five-and-a-half tons of gold

-worth £39m - is being held in America and Britain awaiting distribution to victims of the war. The trust researchers examined the methods of the Tripartite Gold Commission (TGC) which was set up in 1947 by Britain, France and the US to organise the restoration of "monetary gold" to the 10 coun-

tries which are claiming losses. Monetary gold was looted by Germany from the treasuries of countries it had invaded. The trust researchers found

that much of the gold in this pool was in fact looted from private individuals and companies. The TGC was supposed to pass such "non-monetary" gold to the Inter-Governmetal Committee on Refugees. The researchers found that

officials who helped to manage the Nazi treasure were beset by a "considerable degree of confusion and doubt about the provenance of certain gold

One American government document refers to a "question mark against a shipment of 8,307 gold bars.

It notes: "These gold bars may, after proper assay and expert consideration, be determined to represent melteddown gold teeth fillings and WARE SAUSE SAVE (20) 479 SA therefore classifiable as non-

monetary gold." In July 1948, a number of bags containing medals, plaques and tokens arrived at the Bank of England.

AIN/A 73/2500 5 Disc Multipley CD Mid Bank officials concluded that they could never have been currency but recommended (E)(WCOD) NEO (D)(E) they be melted down and S weete FRUS power output (AA) 1999 AN turned into good delivery ATMA NSVANOS Disc Matigley CD Mrs. 120 setts frost PMS power culput was 5380.59

The trust report said: "If this occurred, this is evidence of individual possessions being ultimately returned to national

The report, which was announced by the trust's chairman,

Labour MP Greville Janner. said that governments did not intend to deprive the refugees of what was rightfully theirs, but "amid the chaos" of post-War reconstruction, circuit were

"As a result, some of the people who had lost most as a result of Nazi brutality were denied a proportion of the restitution owed to them," it

The report states that even if all the remaining pooled gold were reallocated to individual victims, it was still likely to be less than they should have re-

 ← These gold bars may ... represent melted gold teeth fillings 9

ceived under the 1945 Paris Treaty on the distribution of gold looted by Germany and recovered by the Allies.

Last month, after pressure from campaigners. Britain and America agreed to freeze distribution of what was left in the gold pool - some 1.5 per cent of the original amount.

Both countries have been conducting research to establish its origin. Foreign Secretary Malcolm

Rifkind told Greville Janner earlier this month that it was impossible to ascertain what went into the TGC gold pool.

He was sympathetic to the idea that individuals should benefit, and he promised no decisions would be made until research was complete.

The trust believes that the gold should be divided between the World Jewish Restitutional Organisation, and a similar non-Jewish organisation which would help the non-Jewish victims of the Nazis.

Numbers of police in decline

Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

en in the past year by 321 despite Government pledges to increase the total, the Home

Office revealed yesterday. It was also disclosed that the number of Specials - part-time volunteer police officers - has declined by 204 in 1995, at a time when the Government had spent £4m in an attempt to

recruit a further 10,000. Labour will seize on this information as useful ammunition in the run-up to the election in which law and order is one of the key issues. The Tories pledged an extra 1,000 full-time officers in their 1992 election manifesto and John Major promised in 1995 to provide 5,000 extra officers in the

next three years. But figures released vesterday in the Home Office's Annual Report 1997, which gives their spending plans for up to the end of the century, show a drop of 321 in the past 12 months to 126,901.

The report said that in 1995-96 police strengths had expected to rise by 900 officers, but had only gone up by 544 constables. However, this was offset by a reduction in 865 higher-ranking officers as part of the cuts taking place in the management structure. The report predicts that extra money in the next three years "will enable chief constables to increase police numbers by 5,000°.

In 1992, when the pledge of an extra 1,000 officers was made the total was 127,627 - more than 700 less than the current year is £6,605m, compared with total. Police chiefs have continued to show a marked reluc- The extra money is needed to use it on new developments. such as DNA testing, CS sprays, weeks and for extra pelson se-

In a separate development David Maclean, the Home Office minister, revealed that The number of police officers despite spending £4m on a in England and Wales has fall- recruitment drive to attract another 10,000 Special constables to swell the existing 20,000, the total had dropped by 204. The Government is set to spend

another £5.3m in recruitment. The Home Office vesterday argued that it was being successful in recruiting new volunteers, but existing Specials were dropping out at the same rate.

Alun Michael, Labour's Home Affairs spokesman, said: This demonstrates yet again the fact that John Major and Michael Howard have broken their promise. Far from delivering the 1,000 extra officers promised in 1992 they are delivering a fall which totally undermines any promises to provide extra officers in the fu-

Fred Broughton, chairman of the Police Federation, which represents constables to chief inspector ranks, added: "While Specials are resigning almost as fast as they are being enlisted it is throwing money down the

■ An extra £450m will be needed in the next three years to pay for the cost of the spiralling prison population and raft of new law and order measures

being introduced. The Home Office has been forced to revise its budget plans for the rest of the century after tough new sentencing provisions, backed by a growing emphasis on jailing offenders, has derailed earlier predictions.

The forecast for the Home Office for this coming financial earlier predictions of £6,504m. tance to spend extra resources cope with the jail population on officers, choosing instead to which will top the historic 60,000 mark in the next few or for paying the spiralling costs curity. The Treasury has already agreed to give the Home The report points out that with the drop in higher ranking office an extra £230m this year to help with the prison crisis cers and civilianisation of many administrative jobs the number port 1997, available from The States tionery Office, 49 High Holborn. London, WCIV 6HB: £20.50.



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of pension contributions. of constables has increased by nearly 2,000 since 1992

film makes a winner out of Oscar

Oscar Wilde, the celebrated wit and playwright who ended his days in disgrace and ruin, is finally being remembered in the way he wanted. As he put it:
"Something more than a man with a tragic vice in his life. There is so much more in me, and I always was a good father to both my children."

A century after his release, Britain is going wild for Wilde. His comedies, such as The Importance of Being Earnest, (which he described as "exquisitely trivial") and Lady Win-dermere's Fan have enjoyed a consistent popularity in reper-tory theatres around the country, and in the next few months his personality and cultural impact will be explored in a West End play, two screen versions

and a new biography.

The film Wilde, the out in the autumn and starring actor and author Stephen Fry, intends to halance his homosexuality, for which he was imprisoned, with his love for his wife, Constance, and two sons.

The producers, brothers said they felt that the Victorian writer's scandalous affair with Lord Alfred "Bosie" Douglas, which led to his downfall, painted an "incomplete" picture

Directed by Brian Gilbert the film focuses on 15 years of Wilde's life, when most of his great works, including The Importance of Being Earnest and An Ideal Husband, were written. Richard Ellmann's definitive stained glass window at Poets' biography, and Vanessa Red-Corner in Westminster Abbey. grave plays Wilde's mother. Even the present Marquess of

Only now, says Fry, is his subject receiving the universal respect that is his due. "He stands for all people who refused to freeze themselves into a moral code," he said on BBC Radio

Because of today's more lib-eral attitudes, the film is likely to be more sexually explicit. than previous studies, which could not focus enough on ho-

Come for

a walk

in the 12th

century.

mosexuality, and instead mere- always been two Oscar Wildes ly alluded to sexual practices which Wilde himself called

"feasting with panthers". The actor Simon Callow has been winning rave reviews for The Importance of Being Oscar, a one-man show at the Savoy Theatre which opened last week, in which he attempts to humanise, rather than eulogise the playwright.

Wilde constructed a peran artist," Callow has said. "By personality he didn't mean in the corrupted sense ... but the inner life transformed into the outer self."

Wilde's grandson, Merlin Holland, has given the show his enthusiastic backing. He himself is working on a new book about his ancestor's life, and he said yesterday. "The British public are happy enough to read his children's stories to their children, or clap at revivals of The Importance of Being Earnest, but his private life you just didn't ask about.

"To find now that it's all been brought back together and the Marc and Peter Samuelson, whole man is there is delightful. I'm very happy about that."

Also in progress is a film ver-sion of Wilde's play The Ideal Husband, which is about a cab women as being the ideal man. yet who hides his corruption behind a facade.

Wilde himself had already won a kind of establishment accentance. In 1995, he was finally be given the stamp of approval Queensberry, descendant of the man who put Wilde behind bars for sodomy, was reported to have joined the Oscar Wilde

But Professor Alan Sinfield, author of The Wilde Century. says that the image of Wilde, as a consequence of the trials, set up the notion of the queer man

of the 20th century. "I thought at the time there's

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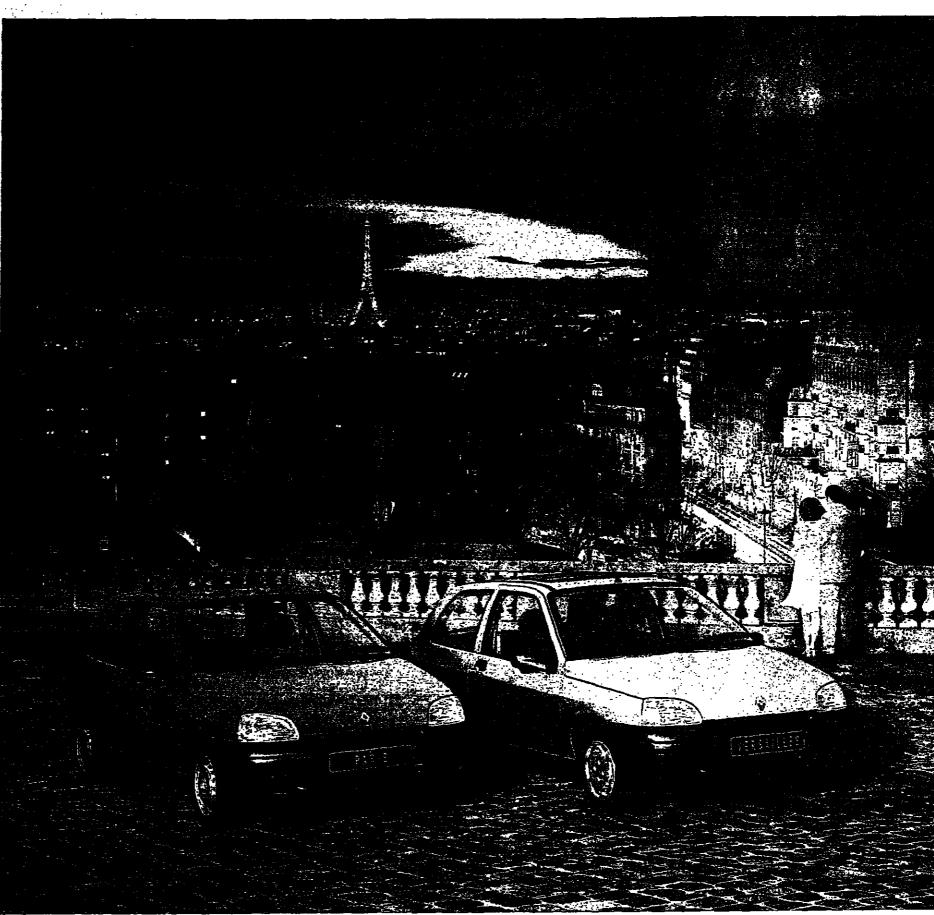
- one that's a synonym for The fact that the newest proqueerness and the one that's at ductions were doing so could the Haymarket with all sorts of knights and ladies." Until resignify an increasingly enlight-

cently, he said, it was quite dif-

putting homosexuality back into that, enough of it, now we'll



Three's company: Simon Callow in The Importance of Being Oscar (left), Stephen Fry, who portrays the playwright in the forthcoming film, and (above) Wilde himself



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Assisted places at risk after scheme frozen

Lucy Ward Education Correspondent

Hundreds of new assisted places in private preparatory schools could be thrown into

jeopardy because of a civil service freeze on processing them during the election period. independent schools warned The fate of more than 600 places for bright children from

low-income families in 118 prep schools joining the scheme this year will be uncertain under a Labour government, even though the party has agreed to honour places already offered if it wins power, the schools said.

Some said they were now unlikely to wait for an end to the confusion and would offer the places to paying families instead.

The difficulty rests on the fact that prep schools new to the assisted places scheme have been forbidden to make any firm ofters of places until they receive signed "participation agreements" from the Department for Education and Employ-

The deadline for providing the department with information for the agreements fell cessing of the scheme had been

the election campaign,

Schools will now have to wait until after 1 May to make formal offers of places. They will also have to wait to see whether. if Labour wins, the new government will honour the offers.

Moves to extend the assisted places scheme were included in the Education Bill, which was rushed through Parliament last week to beat the election dead-

In a series of deals between the parties over clauses in the Bill, Labour said children who had accepted offers by 1 May would be allowed to take up their assisted places if it took power, though it remains com-mitted to phasing out the scheme and using the money saved to cut class sizes.

Private prep schools which have been allocated assisted places vesterday confirmed they had been told not to fill them without the formal agreement. Andrew Corbett, headmaster

of Kings College School, Cambridge, predicted a new Labour government might argue that the school could not offer its allocated five places. He said: "Having publicly

announced it was awarding these places, it now looks as if an election period.

suspended for the duration of the DFEE are going to turn round and say they are not. Parents have had their hopes built up, and we have to turn round and say no, unfortunately we can't offer them."

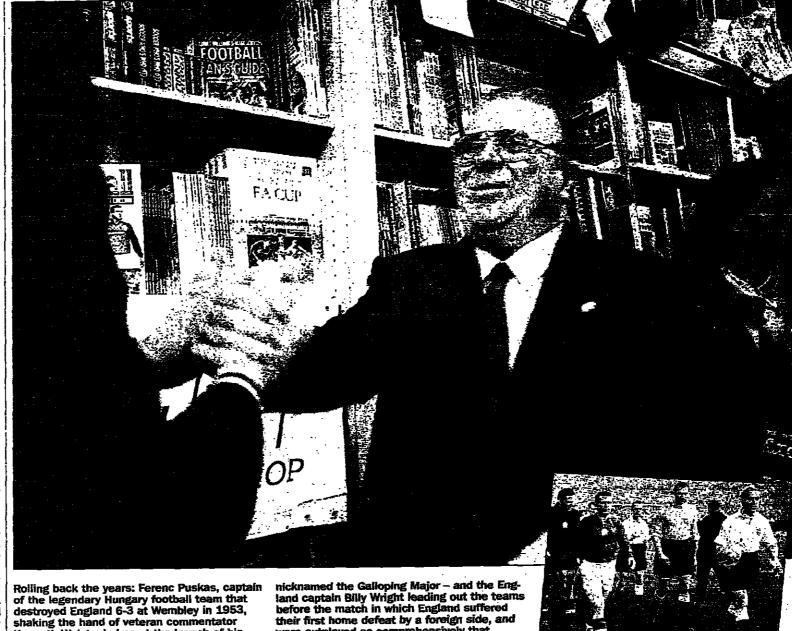
George Marsh, headmaster of Dulwich College Preparatory School in south London. said May was likely to be too late to fill places for many schools, forcing them to give up their allocated assisted places.

Labour yesterday confirmed "any places allocated to a spe-cific individual children" by election day would be honoured.

A party spokesman said the situation would be reviewed in the light of the freeze on agreements, but blamed government incompetence in pushing through the bill for creating the

The spokesman added: They did not have the necessary commitment behind what they apparently regard as flagship proposals.

A spokeswoman for the education department said that all processing of participation agreements had been stopped until after the election in line long-term commitments during



Kenneth Wolstenholme at the launch of his new book Puskas on Puskas in London yesterday. The inset photograph shows Puskas -

were outplayed so comprehensively that the aura of English invincibility was shattered for ever. Main photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

Nazi invasion plans - a snip at £1,050

Christopher Bellamy Defence Correspondent

German manuals for the planned invasion of Britain in September 1940 fetched £1.050 twice the expected price - at a Norfolk auction yesterday.

The manuals, found by Pat Grehan, a former Royal Engineers surveyor, form part of a series of documents more than a foot thick, including volumes of maps, town plans, photographs and complete voles of text, published Berlin in 1940 to 1941.

The Germans planned their operation, codenamed "Seaion", with typical and terrifying thoroughness. The initial land ings were to be along the southeast coast. But during the Battle of Britain the Germans failed to achieve the air supremacy they needed for a successful invasion. and they also lost the war at sea. Hitler's attention then turned away eastwards, towards the Soviet Union, and Sealion was

postponed - forever. Mr Grehan had found the intelligence documents in 1945 when he was working at a map depot outside Brussels. After more than 50 years, he decided to sell - and was delighted with the result. "There were lit-erally thousands published". he said yesterday. "You wouldn't think they'd be that scarce". Both Mr Grehan and the auctioneers, GA Key of Aylsham, Norfolk, were surprised

by the the degree of interest. The exhaustive survey of invasion objectives in Britain went to a bidder who wanted to remain anonymous. The Imperial War Museum said they already had copies, and seemed surprised at how much the lot had fetched.

The manuals, in green-card covers, are titled Militär – geographische Angaben fiber Eng-land - "Military - Geographical details of Britain" - and marked "Official Use Only". The text is in normal type, and not in the obscure gothic type the Germans often used at that time.

"There is a complete coastal profile which the Zeppelins did in 1938", said Andrew Bullock, the auctioneer. The giant airships, able to loiter for hours at a time, which ceased commercial operations after the Hindenburg airship disaster in 1937, were used for surveillance of the British coast. Even children took part in the survey, from the ground. "The Hitler Youth were encouraged to come over here on holiday with their cameras and sketchbooks", he

"[The Germans] weren't just going to land by sea," he added. "There were paratroops as well. Whatever area of Britain they were in they would have the requisite handbook.

"You could naively look at the manuals and say what on earth would they need to know that for?". In one of the booklets it lists all the hospitals in the country with their capacity. A bit ominous."

Mr Grehan believed be had, as a boy, actually seen the Zep-



mouth. He encountered the results of the meticulous work after the Allies had landed in about 200 sets", he said. "The Normandy. Mr Grehan said rest were taken as souvenirs".

pelin - hovering three or four miles offshore - that took the two tons of maps a night for discontinuous photograph of the coast from Margate to Weyman maps and manuals came in. "We were ordered to ship back

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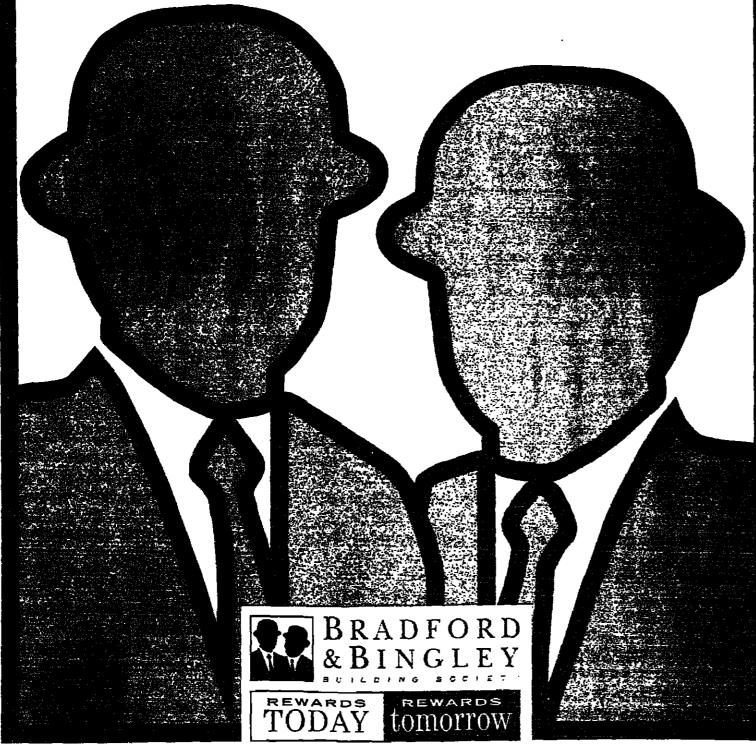
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Three cleared of sectarian murder

terday at the Court of Appeal: in Belfast of the sectarian murder of a Catholic mother found

with her throat cut in the city. But they were all sentenced for their part in assisting the men who seized and then strangled the woman before dumping her body on waste ground. Ann Mane Smyth, 25, from Armagh city, was abducted from a club in east Belfast, taken to a house and killed.



Anne Marie Smyth: Taken from club and strangled

The murder in February 1992 horrified Northern Ireland and five men were later jailed for at least 20 years.

At the Northern Ireland Court of Appeal three of them gusted by the ruling to clear the had their murder convictions quashed after the court accepted there was a "lurking doubt" about their guilt. Lord Justice MacDermott found each of them guilty of assisting aged nine. the offenders - one for helping to dispose of the body, another for destroying a quilt and a
third for removing incriminating evidence. Stephen Manand carry on with my life, but I ners, 33, of Woodstock House, Belfast, was sentenced to 10 years. David Magee, 26, of Pearl Street, and Philip Murray, 30, of Kingswood Street, both

their time in prison since the. I'm just stunned."

murder, the latter two are expected to be freed imminently and Manners some time later. After the hearing Ms Smyth's father, Frank, said: "Twe been sentenced to life. "To put it

mildly I am very disappointed with the judgment." Two other men failed in their appeals against murder convictions - Carlo John Bing-ham, 25, of Carneen Drive, Rathcool, Newtownabbey, and Samuel Cooke, 29, of Cregagh

Ms Smyth was lured from a football supporters club after it was discovered she was a Catholic in a Protestant area. She was taken to a house and strangled. Her body was dumped on waste ground and the trial of the five men was told her throat was then cut.

The appeal last November centred on the credibility of the chief prosecution witness, Cheryl Kelly, 21, who was in the house at the time of the murder. The Court of Appeal was told that Ms Kelly stole a bottle of vodka while in England under the care of an Royal Ulster Constabulary witness-protection unit. That happened shortly before the trial, when she denied committing any offence

since Ms Smyth's murder. Mr Smyth said he was disthree of murder and appalled by what he described as the lemency of the sentences. He now looks after his daughter's children, Kevin, 11, and Emma,

"How do you try and explain

more for shoplifting.
The men who did this are Belfast, each got eight years. cowards and they'll live like cow-With remission following ards for their rest of their lives: ards for their rest of their lives.





Spector wins back rights to Fifties classic

Paul McCann Media Correspondent

A High Court judge equated a classic Fifties song to a piece of land yesterday when the American pop legend, Phil Spector, won back the United Kingdom copyright to his first hit, "To Know Him is to Love Him, in a case that illustrated the continuing value of the songs that accompanied the adolescence of today's fifty-somethings.

The schmaltzy favourite of a thousand karaoke bars, better known as To Know, Know, Know, Him, has been the source of a wrangle over unpaid royalties between Spector's USased company, Mother Bertha Music Inc. and UK-based Bourne Music Ltd. Mr Justice Ferris ruled that Bourne Music had no rights to the copyright after December 1986.

Mr Spector claimed an initial 28-year copyright assignment under United States law, made can't believe there can be such in 1958, in which rights to the a light sentence for an offence song were transferred to music publishers Warman Music and a licence was then granted

of assisting in crime. You get to Bourne - had expired in 1986. Bourne claimed that it was still entitled to the rights even though, since 1987, it had not

paid any royalties in respect of them. An inquiry into those profits due to Mr Spector. estimated to run into hundreds of thousands of pounds, will now take place.

In an illuminating aside about the true nature of classic songs the judge said: "When that 28-year term expired the copyright reverted to Mr Specself and two high school friends.

He reached his peak in the profile. He produced the Beat-less Let It Be album in the late importance of the court case.

freeholder on the expiration of a lease." A further hearing will take place in May to decide who owns the copyright in jurisdictions outside the UK.

Now 57. Mr Spector wrote the song in 1958 for the Teddy

tor in the same way that one speaks of land 'reverting' to a US charts and then around the world. From that first hit he went on to create his trademark "wall of sound" for a series of soul bands in the Fifties and early Sixties, like The Crystals and The Ronettes who sang the hit

"Da Do Ron Ron".

like "River Deep - Mountain High", with Ike and Tina Turner, and The Righteous Brothers "You've Lost That Loving Feeling", before announcing his retirement at the age of 25.

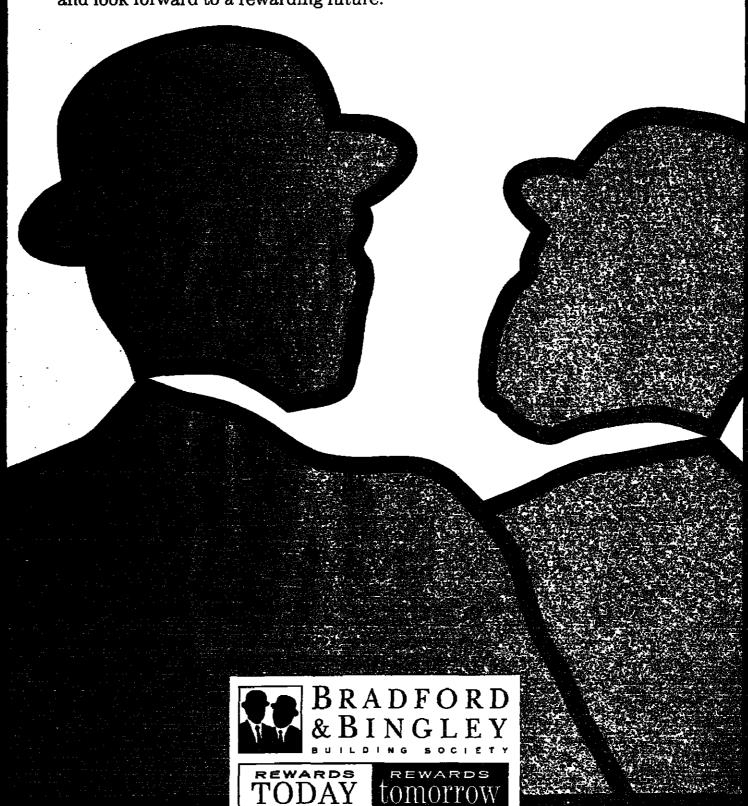
Since his peak Mr Spector, who cultivated the image of a reclusive svengali, has kept a low

Sixties - for which was criticised by Sir Paul McCartney for the scaring violins on "The Long and Winding Road". In the Seventies he produced several John Lennon and Leonard Cohen alburns, but has managed to live sumptuously in Los Angeles for 20 years on the royalties from his early works. Which explains the

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5,000 new jobs for BA

Labour Editor

British Airways yesterday launched a drive to recruit 5,000 frontine staff following a decision to shed a similar number of "backroom boys".

As part of a plan to concentrate on the "core" business, two-thirds of the new recruits will be pilots, cabin crew and customer services staff.

Bob Ayling, BA's chief exec-utive, denied allegations that he was trying to create a "virtual airline" and said the company

ple at the turn of the century than it does today.

Union representatives point out, however, that many of the newcomers will be paid less than those being made redundant and that it is all part of a plan to cut costs by £1bn.

Mr Ayling said the industry was becoming increasingly competitive and BA needed to respond to cultural differences. values and tastes and ensure that employees could respond effectively to customers.

"This recruitment drive is a demonstration that our change envisaged employing more peo- programme is not just a cost-

cutting exercise, but a positive story about investment in people, new aircraft and services."

George Ryde, national offi-cial for the airline industry at the Transport and General Workers' Union, said the company wanted to introduce "new starter" rates for recruits which would be substantially lower than the wages earned by those already at the airline.

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The man who wants to wage holy war against the Americans



A pilgrimage through a broken and dangerous land of death

Robert Fisk

The journey to meet Ossama Bin Laden began, as it did last year, outside the façade of the run-down Spinghar Hotel in Jalalabad. An Afghan holding a Kalashnikov rifle invited me to travel in a car out of town. But this time - instead of a journey across the deserts and Russianbombed villages of the plains we headed past the roaring waters of a great river and up into the mountains, overtaking trucks and a string of camels, their heads turning towards our headlights in the gloom. Two hours later we stopped on a stony hillside and, after a few minutes, a pick-up truck came bouncing down the rough shale of the mountainside.

An Arab in Afghan robes came towards the car. I recognised him at once from our last meeting in a ruined village. "I am sorry Mr Robert, but I must give you the first search." he said, prowling through my camera bag and newspapers. And we set off up the track which Ossama Bin Laden built during his jihad against the Russian army in the early 1980s, a terrifying, slithering two-hour odyssey along fearful ravines in rain and sleet, the windscreen misting as we climbed the cold mountain.

"When you believe in jihad, it is easy," he said, fighting with the steering wheel as stones scuttered from the tyres. bouncing down ravines into the clouds below. From time to time, lights winked at us from far away in the darkness. "Our brothers are letting us know they see us." he said.

After an hour, two armed Arabs – one with his face covered in a scarf, eyes peering at us through spectacles - came screaming from behind two rocks. "Stop! Stop!" As the brakes were jammed on, I almost hit my head on the windscreen, "Sorry, sorry," the pespectacled man said, putting down his anti-tank rocket launcher and pulling from his pocket an electronic metal detector, the red light flicking

tinued, the jeep skidding backwards towards sheer cliffs, the headlights illuminating terrifying gorges on either side. Still clutching the wheel, the Arab fighter turned to me and smiled.
"Tovota is good for jihad," he said. I could only agree.
In the moonlight, I could see clouds both below us in the

ravines and above us, curling round mountain tops, the headlights now shining on frozen waterfalls and icy pools. Ossama Bin Laden knew how to build his wartime roads - many an ammunition truck and tank had ground up here during the titanic struggle against the Red Army. Now the man who led those guerrillas - the first Arab fighter in the battle against Moscow - was back again in the mountains he knew. There were more Arab checkpoints, more screaming orders to halt.

ist" in the world - as I suggested to him they did - then "if liber-ating my land is called terrorism. this is a great honour for me". And so we embarked on a threeand-a-half hour interview in which the US was damned for supporting Israel, but in which Europe was faintly praised for its slow departure from Amer-

still at the beginning of our mil-

itary action against the Amer-

ican forces," he said.
If the United States regard-

ed him as the foremost "terror-

ican policy in the Middle East. For him, there was no difference, he said, between the American and Israeli governments, between the American and Israeli armies. But Enrope was beginning to distance itself from the Americans, especially France - although he condemned French policies towards north Africa. He did not

6 We set off up the track ... a terrifying, slithering two-hour odyssey along fearful ravines 9

"No one can get to us here." the driver muttered.

Our meeting was almost an anti-climax. Ossama Bin Laden looked fatigued when he entered the tent in which I was waiting cross-legged on a rough blanket, my shoes left at the entrance. At times during our conversation, he paused for at least a minute to choose his words. He was, however, studiously polite, offering the usual Arab courtesy of food to a stranger: a tray of cheese, olives, bread and jam. But his message was unequivocal, even brutal, while couched with the usual conditional clauses. "I am not against the American people only their government," he said. How many times have I heard that phrase? I told him I thought the American people regarded their government as over my body in another search. their representatives. He lis-

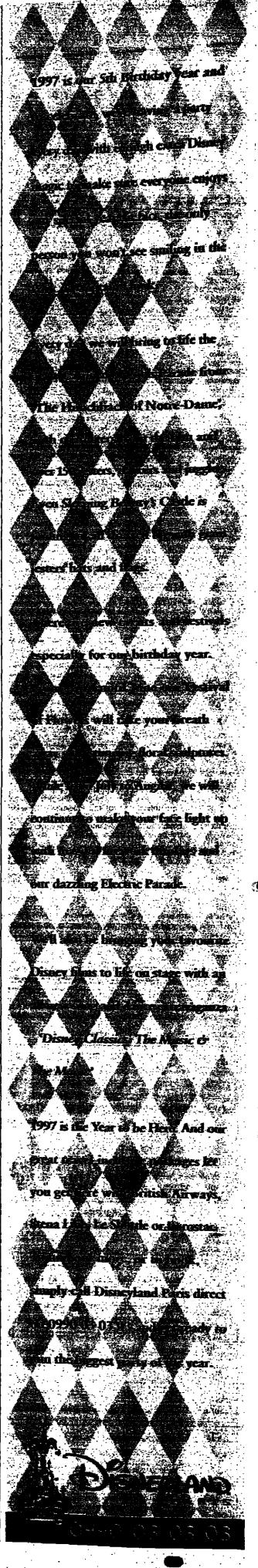
mention Algeria but the name hovered over us for several nutes like a ghost.

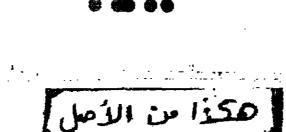
He gave me a Pakistani wall poster in Urdu which proclaimed the support of Pakistani scholars for his holy war against the Americans, even colour photographs of graffiti on the walls of Karachi, demanding the ousting of US troops from "the place of the two Holy Shrines (Mecca and Medina)". He had, he said, received some months ago an emissary from the Saudi royal family who said that Bin Laden would have his Saudi citizenship and passport returned to him and that his family would receive 2 billion Saudi riyals (£339m) if he abandoned his jihad - declared on 23 August and went back to Saudi Arabia. He had rejected the offer and so had his family, he said. The US was in Saudi Arabia

because of its oil but - more im-portantly - because it feared ("along with the Zionists") that "they and their local agents would drown in the Islamic up-rising". Of the strict Islamist Tal-iban militia, which now controls three-quarters of Afghanistan and in whose region Bin Laden now lives, he said that he had "struggled alongside them" since 1979. "We believe that Taliban are sincere in their attempts to enforce Islamic religious law. We saw the situation here before [they took over | and after, and have seen an obvious improvement."

Despite these words, Ossama Bin Laden was unwilling to have me taken back to Jalalabad through the Taliban checkpoints at midnight. So I spent the night under the stars at his guerrilla camp, close to the massive rockbewn air-raid shelter that he built during the Russian war. When the Arabs drove me back before dawn next day, they paused by the roadside to pray, kneeling on rugs with their rifles beside them, crying "Allahu Akbar" over the bleak landscape of rivers and snow-capped mountains. And amid the pageant of stars above us, a great comet trailed down the sky with a fiery tail, unseen since the time of the Pharachs. It was, I learned later, the Hale-Bopp comet. "They say that after a comet, there will be a great war," one of the Arabs said to me.

We had driven past the police barracks in Jalalabad at first light but, minutes later, a thunderous explosion tore across the road, incinerating every driver within 100 metres, a massive blast at the local munitions store that killed at least 50 men, women and children and left hundreds wounded. The Taliban were on the streets, beating back relatives of the dead with sticks, a mile-high column of brown smoke beiching into the sky. It was not difficult to see how this broken, dangerous nation could engender anger and an acceptance of death; even a desire to turn the weapons once used against the Soviets upon the world's only





Suicide blast buries last peace hopes under the rubble of Tel Aviv

Patrick Cockburn

The suicide bomber who blew himself up yesterday in a café in Tel Aviv, killing two people and wounding 47, may have fi-nally ended any lingering hopes of a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, immediately accused Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, of giving the "green light" for the re-sumption of violence. The bombing, the first for over a year, was claimed by Hamas, the Islamic militant organisation.

The explosion took place as people sat down to hunch in the courtyard of the Apropos Cof-fee House, on Ben Gurion Boulevard, in the centre of Tel Aviv. A man entered carrying two bags. "He looked strange," said Gad Ben Tzur, a waiter.

"I was trying to pick up an or-der. A second later, there was a tremendous flash and he blew

Among the injured were children in fancy dress who were celebrating the Jewish settlement of Purim. A six-month-old baby dressed in a red and blue clown's uniform was taken away ered in blood. The two bags martyrdom."



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An Israell soldier set on fire by a petrol bomb in Hebron

carried by the bomber, in keeping with previous attacks, contained ball bearings and nails, stand aside." in order to kill and wound as

The suicide bombing came four days after Israel started to let into the peace process. They build a Jewish settlement at Har want us to declare it dead. Homa in east Jerusalem on. Let them give it the death cerland which was captured in 1967. Asked if the building of the settlement might have led to the attack, Mr Netanyahu tificate."

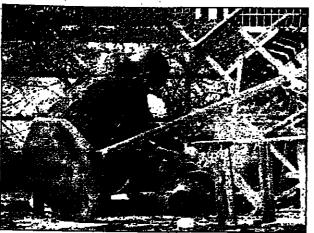
In Hebron, the Palestinian city from which Israeli forces partially withdrew in January, said: "I find that line of questioning obnoxious and im- also co-operation between Is-

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cupation of the West Bank as in- fired back with rubber bullets tended under the interim agree-

ment of 1995. Soon after the bombing, Hamed Bitani, a Hamas leader, addressing a crowd of 10,000 in Nablus, the largest city of the West Bank, said: "I have good news for you. There is a suicide operation in Tel Aviv." As the crowd reportedly cheered, Mr Bitani continued: "This is the only language the occupiers understand, the language of

Israel closed off the West Bank immediately after the attack. Identity papers found near the remains of the bomber suggest that he comes from Zurif village, near Hebron, which is under Israeli security

Even before the attack Palestinian politicians said that because of their inability to stop Har Homa their moderate methods might be replaced by violence. Paisal Husseini, the Palestinian leader in Jerusalem, who had spent the night in a tent at a peace camp he has established on a hill near where Israeli bulldozers are breaking ground for the settlement for 27,000 Jews, said: "People are really convinced that the Israelis are not listening to us. So they may say to us. Thank you, but

Salah al-Taamari, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, said: "Israel fired a bul-

there was confrontation but raelis and Palestinians. In the The new settlement and the morning some 500 boys atbombing together make it un-likely that Israel will end its oc-in the centre of the city. Troops

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A sapper inspecting what is thought to be the suicide bombe body in the ruins of the café

and and a particularly toxic tear gas, which led to some 30 rioters being taken to hospital. The demonstrators drove the troops, who appear to have been under strict orders not to use live rounds, 100 yards into the Israeli-held zone and cut off 13 Israeli soldiers in a house. Jibril Rajoub, the head of Palestinian Preventive Security, whose headquarters is in He-

out of uniform to drive back the rioters. Linking arms they marched down the street, shoutng: "Go home, boys." A unit of Palestinian soldiers were showered with stones by a Palestinian crowd as they clambered through the window of a building to evict stone throwers who were attacking Israeli troops. The Israeli soldiers, for their part, wrestled an M-16 rifle way from a policeman who was about to open fire.

المكذا من الأصل

Local people said they were angry about Har Homa. Shams Edin. 35. a restaurant owner. said: "It is as if you went to drink a glass of water and somebody spits in it." Nevertheless, an opinion poll this week by the Centre for Palestinian Research and Studies, showed that only 9 per cent of Palestinians approved of taking armed action in response to the settlement.

The problem for Mr Netanyahu is that if he wants to stop further suicide bombings he needs the co-operation of the Palestinian security services. He defeated the previous Israeli government in the election last May after four suicide bombings, three by Hamas and one bron, ended the riot by orderby Islamic Jihad. Two bombs



were on board different Number 18 buses on Jaffa Road in Jerusalem and exploded a week apart. The last bomb was at the Dizengoff centre in Tel Aviv. a tacit assent for the resumption their intent to renew attacks few streets away from vesterday's attack. It left 13 dead.

Mr Netanyahu accuses Mr members and leaders in recent weeks and therefore giving his

yesterday: "When the PA Arafat of releasing Hamas [Palestinian Authority] opens its prison gates and releases the leaders of terrorists who declare of suicide attacks. He said in an it is clear we will view the PA as interview in the daily Ma'ariv responsible for these attacks."

But if Mr Arafat does to remeans imprisonement without trial, and torture, he will expect Mr Netanyahu to abide by the

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Zairean rebels pledge to fight on to Kinshasa

With its army routed, its prime minister paralysed and its ailing leader already in exile, the corrupt and ineffectual regime of Zairean president Mobutu Sese Seko seems to be living out its

last days.

The ailing president left France for home yesterday, after receiving treatment for cancer. But the rebels said his return made no difference. As Kinshasa buzzes with rumours of a military coup, Laurent Kabila and his victorious rebels plan to make sure that it is they and not the Mobutists who call the final shots of the war.

Although its frontline troops have only just captured Kisangani, 800 miles from Kinshasa, the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire says it intends to fight all the way to the capital if the authorities there - whoever they may turn out to be do not swiftly come to terms.

Four months ago, when the rebels emerged from the hills of southern Kivu to capture the

Rescue plan for 470 Britons

British forces plan to rescue an estimated 470 British citizens from Zaire if the country disintegrates with the further advance of the reb-els, senior defence sources said yesterday, writes Christopher Bellamy.

It a rescue has to be carried out, the Ministry of Defence was yesterday planning to move the main group north from the capital, Kinshasa, across the Zaire river into Brazzaville. A second group would be moved from Lumumbasha, in the south of the

The operation would, like that in Albania, involve special forces troops on the ground, helicopters and Hercules transport planes.

frontier towns of Goma and Bukavu, few people took seriously their threat to overrun the entire country. But after the fall last weekend of Kisangani, Zaire's third largest city, it seems possible that the shadowy rebel army can indeed take Mr Kabila, who yesterday visited Kisangani, all the way to Kinshasa if Mr Mobutu or his successors refuse to give up power.

Originally dominated by ethnic Tutsis from the Kivu region. who rebelled last October following government pogroms, the rebels remain a largely un-known, invisible force. Tight controls on movement in rebel areas ensured that few journalists or aid workers have got anywhere near the fighting.

Kinshasa and its allies claim that there is a reason for this secrecy. They allege that the bulk of the fighting is being done by troops from the Rwanda and

The Mobutu regime seems to be living out its last days. Ed O'Loughlin,

in Goma, reports

Uganda veterans of the 1986 war against Milton Obote and of the 1994 campaign that ousted Rwanda's genocidal Hutu regime. Both countries had poor relations with Mr Mobutu, who allowed Ugandan rebels

and Rwandan Hutu infiltrators to operate from his territory. Uganda and Rwanda have consistently denied these claims, but Westerners who were in Rwanda and Zaire during the Kivu campaign last year noted distinct similarities in style between the rebels holding the towns and the well-disciplined fighters of the

Rwandan Patriotic Army. Journalists were present last November when RPA troops attacked across the border from neighbouring Gisenyi, ostensibly to drive off Zairean Armed Forces (FAZ) who had mortared the town. Goma fell to the rebels the same day.

Since then, some of the rebel officers in Goma have been identified as Zairean-born Tutsis who had left Zaire in the late 1980s and early 1990s to join the Rwandan Patriotic Front, then in exile in Uganda.

Whatever the nature of the links between the rebel forces and the Rwandau government, few in eastern Zaire doubt the links are strong.

The rebels' leader, Laurent

Kabila - a non-Tutsi whose name was first linked to the rebellion a month after it broke out - has been at pains to show that Zaireans of all ethnic groups are flocking to the rebel cause. He claims to have more than 15,000 men under arms, including numerous defectors from the FAZ.

The source of the rebels' equipment and ammunition is unclear, although they have, as Mr Kabila claims, captured large quantities of both from the FAZ and its allies in the exiled

Rwandan Hutu army While they have mortars and some artillery pieces, the rebels seem to rely mainly on small arms and the tactics of stealth and surprise perfected by the Rwandan Patriotic Front in

People in the captured towns have said that the rebels seem to operate in small groups. They often infiltrate at night and the ensuing confusion, together with a few mortar rounds, has usually been enough to frighten off the demoralised, untrained and unpaid FAZ soldiers.

The identity of the commanders directing these tactics remains largely unknown, al-though Mr Kabila's son is officially credited with leading the capture of Kisangani. André Kissasse, who described himself as the alliance's military leader last November, was killed shortly afterwards, reportedly in an

Whoever Mr Kabila's generals are, they could yet win the war without fighting a battle. Mr Kabila said this week that superior knowledge of the terrain - mostly thick jungle, rivers and swamps - ensured his fighters had little difficulty coping with the 300-odd white mercenaries imported by Mr Mobutu at the beginning of the year.

While some rebel leaders have said the southern city of Lumumbashi is their next objective. Mr Kabila says his men are also acquiring boats for river towards Kinshasa.



Dogs of war leave Papuans to fate

Staff and Agencies

Dozens of African mercenaries hired by Papua New Guinea to put down an island rebellion headed home, leaving behind them a nation in turmoil and a standoff between army and

As police clamped down on fresh unrest, about 50 mercenaries flew out of Port Moresby-expelled by the soldiers they were meant to have fought alongside. Some later flew via

Hong Kong to South Africa.
The crisis kept Papua's neighbours on guard. Australia, the country's former colonial ruler, said it had put its troops on increased readiness in case the crisis worsened.

Local radio reported that rioting had spread outside the capital yesterday, with police firing tear gas to disperse thousands of demonstrators in the

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Albanian rebels insist Berisha be ousted

Rebel Albanian leaders tempered their opposition to the caretaker government but insisted President Sali Berisha be ousted and that they be given a voice in running the country. After meeting in Tepelena, 100 miles from Tirana, leaders of 12 rebel-controlled districts called on the Prime Minister, Bashkim Fino, to set up a presidential council to rule until elections are held, by June at the

Serbian TV station blacked out

The most trusted television station in Serbia has been blacked out across most of the country amid a battle for control of the media before elections this year. The state telecommunications authority cut independent BK television's transmission lines, stopping broadcasts to cities south of the capital.

Reuters - Belgrade

Write on from the East

Two East European authors won Leipzig book prizes for work generating deeper understanding between European people. Imre Kertesz. from Hungary, received the top prize of DM20,000 (£7,400) for Diary of a Slave, about the fate of Jews during the Holocaust. The second prize went to the Prague publicist and author Antonin Liehm for his culture magazine Lettre Internationale. AP - Lelpzig

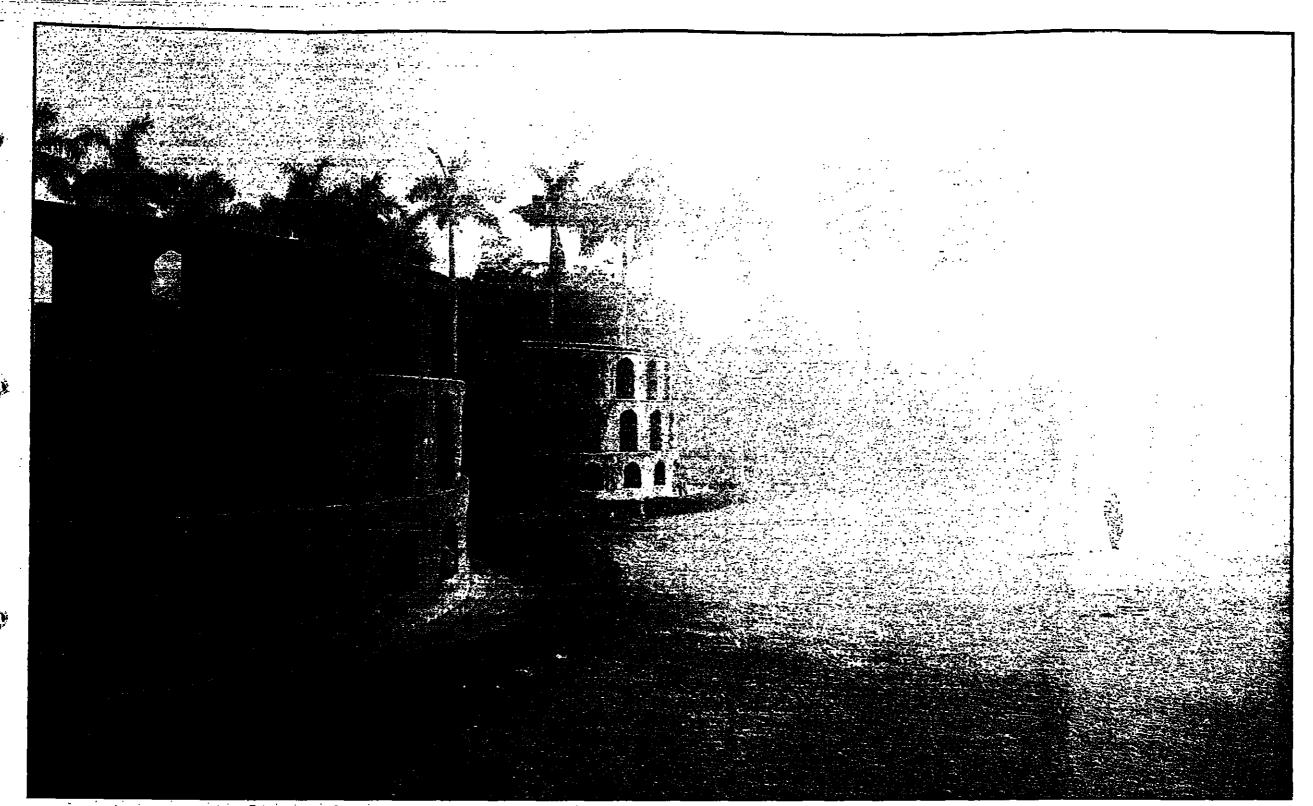
Armenia's break with the past

The Armenian President, Levon Ter-Petrosyan, named the leader of Azerbaijan's breakaway Nagorno-Karabakh region, Robert Kocharyan, as Armenia's new prime minister. Reuters - Ye

Scent of success

Shops in Ashgabat have started selling a French-made scent for men named after Turkmenistan's leader, Saparmurat Nivazov, the focus of an expanding Reuters - Ashgabat

هكذا من الأصل



In pre-Colonial days, before Greenwich was established as the guide to the world's time, Jantar Mantar, the oldest observatory in India, set the hour on the sub-continent. It is to be one of the country's venues to celebrate the millennium. Photograph by Kalpesh Lathigra using a Nikon F90, Kodachrome 64 at 250th of a second, f16. To order a print of this picture (£14) phone 0171-293 2534

thelongweekend THE INDEPENDENT • SATURDAY 22 MARCH 1997

et's look at the historical background to the development of medicinal plants throughout the orld, paying particular attention to those mateherb materials. So let us journey back through time to the very beginnings of medicinal history. A check

on our chronometer shows us to be in the year 1300BC. Much of Egyptian culture centred on the use of essential oils. Throughout the Bible one finds numerous references to the custom of anoming various parts of the body. There are also many illustrations in papyri, on artefacts and in tomb wall paintings of these undoubtedly expensive and precious oils being prepared and applied. If we look closely at Tutankhamen's throne, we can see the young Queen Ankhesenamen applying oils to his collar. In a panel from the gold shrine surrounding his sarcophagus, she is caught in the act of applying oils to the young pharaoh.

In many illustrations and carvings you will notice strange cones on people's heads. These were highly perfumed imguents of low melting point; as the wearer became warm, so the cone would slowly melt and the Hagranced oils would run over them.

To make the oils, a man would first chop and fragment a fragrant piece of wood, then macerate the chips in wine. After a few days the liquor would be strained off. Fat and more fragrant herbs were added and then the mixture was slowly heated. The fragrant herbs obviously yielded their virtues more easily to the oily fat than to the hydro-alcoholic wine. The mixture was allowed to cool, so that the fat set and could he skimmed off.

Herbs and spices were then ground and mixed with this fat, which was fashioned into cakes and allowed to stand. The final product would today be called a pomade. Did the ancient pharaohs have an understanding of aromatherapy, or were they using the fragrances purely for the pleasure of their odour?

We do know that the ancient Egyptians used the seeds of the opium poppy, Papaver somniferium, in cooking, but that they were unaware of the narcotic properties of its exudate. There is no evidence that they smoked hemp, either, they were not makers of

spliffs or drug abusers as far as we can tell.

We move next to India in 800BC. To a land of patchouli, cedarwood, cinnamon and precious spices,

WORDS OF THE WEEK

In a lecture to the Chelsea Physic Garden, a haven of herbs buried deep in the heart of London, chemist Anthony Dweck talked of Plants, Perfume and People and took his lessons from history. Here are some highlights

of gardenia and hibiscus and oils of exotic roses, but most of all the sensuous jasmine.

The most interesting use of jasmine oil was as an aphrodisiac. There are many reasons why a plant may heighten sexual stamina or libido, but jasmine is special. It does not work by irritating the genital tract, by stimulating blood flow or by acting as a tonic, nor does it act as a prophylactic or placebo.

What it does do, is heighten the alpha wave activity in the brain. When this activity is increased, so are awareness and perception. So its action is not physically to improve sex, but it may improve the mental stimnh that are required to get things going and, more to the point, keep them going.

Now to AD23, and one of the earliest recorders

of herbal medicine. We are in Como in northern Italy just in time to witness the birth of Caius Plinius Secundus, or Pliny the Elder, who wrote many books, of which only one survives, a work of a mere 37 volumes. A passage that I particularly like is: "A poultice is more efficacious if laid upon him by a maiden, herself fasting and naked, who at the same time has to repeat certain special words." I have no doubt that any man would feel immensely better under these conditions, but have been unable to ascertain what the words should be.

On to the 12th century and the small German town of Bingen. Here we find a remarkable lady, a mystic, stateswoman, writer of holy songs and phenomenal

herbalist: the Abbess Hildegarde von Bingen. Many of her recipes include fragrant herbal materials.

There is an interesting cure for hay fever, which is to inhale the fumes from smoking yew wood, prepared by placing the shavings in a flowerpot, then heating the pot. A flowerpot seems a strange idea, because it has a hole in the bottom, but the air circulates through the bottom and convects upwards, carrying more vapour than a pot without the hole.

(I tried this at home to see what it smelt like. Apart from setting off smoke alarms all over the house, it certainly had a pungent and eye-watering effect, and seemed to relieve nasal congestion.)

Then we move on to a village near Carmarthen in Wales to meet the physicians of Myddvai, renowned herbalists of the 13th century. They offer this recipe, which I would certainly avoid, for application to "proud flesh", which I interpret as another term for overactive fibroblast activity and the formation of

"Take a toad that can scarcely creep, beat it with a rod, till irritated, it smells, and dies [How irritated can you get?]. Then put it in an earthern pot, closing the same so that no smoke can come out or air enter in. Burn it till it is reduced to ashes, and apply the same to the part." Not exactly animal-friendly.

We now venture timidly into the 15th century and make our way to London, where we discover a pot of Gilbert's ointment. Suffering from sore lips, we

apply some of the soothing salve and read the recipe on the label: "Take a very fat puppy dog and skin him: then take the juice of cucumber, rue and pellitory; berries of ivy and juniper; fat of vulture, fox and bear in equal parts; stuff the puppy therewith and boil him. Add wax to the grease that floats on the surface and make therefrom an ointment. This product has not

been tested on animals. Signed, Gilbertus Anglicus. In 1493 we come upon Philipp Theophrastus Bombastus von Hohenheim (mercifully better known to us as Paracelsus). He wrote: "The mind need not concern itself with the physical constitution of the plants and roots. It recognises the powers and virtues intuitively thanks to the signatures they carry."

This may be best explained with a few examples. Heartsease or wild pansy, Viola tricolor, has beartshaped lower leaves, so according to Paracelsus's doctrine it should be good for the heart. In fact it is a heart tonic, and has been used in cases of heart failure.

Celandine, or Chelidonium majus, has a bright yellow juice, so should be good for biliary conditions and jaundice. Examination of its properties shows it to be an antispasmodic, reducing inflammation of the biliary ducts, and it has been used successfully to treat jaundice. Walnut, or Inglans regia, looks like a brain, so should be good for headaches or mental disturbances. We discover that the walnut is one of the foods rich in manganese, important for nerves, brain and cartilage.

In 1597 John Gerard, an Elizabethan physician. published his great "herbal or the historie of plants". He refers to a plant not only as valerian, but also as setwall; surprisingly he is using the dry root as an antidote for poison, and for the healing of "sleight cuts". He writes: "They that will have their heale, must put Setwall in their keale." (I don't know whether a keale is some type of pottage or stew, or simply a saucepan).

The excitement of plant discovery begins to tarnish as modern drugs start to replace traditional remedies. This is progress. But the pendulum swings. The teaching of plant pharmacy is again on the increase. public awareness is increasing and clinical scepticism

INSIDE

John Walsh meets Mark Radcliffe

Railway children get return ticket

Games, crossword......2

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rguab soned argument and literary criticism, the London Review of Books is hard to match. The Sunday Times calls it the 'boldest of the literary journals'. To Clive James it is 'the house magazine of the literary élite', while Alan Bennett considers it simply the liveliest, the most serious and also the most radical literary magazine we have'. HE LONDON REVIEW OF BOOKS is many things, but it is not an easy read. Simply because the issues facing the world today are not easy ones. Here is just a handful of the subjects and authors which have appeared in recent issues: Martha Gellhorn on the deaths of Brazilian children,

Clinton sleaze, Alan Bennett's diary, Jenny Diski's memories of childhood, Colm Toibín on poetry and AIDS, Jacqueline Rose on Virginia Woolf, Frank Kermode on Judas Iscariot, Edward Luttwak on the iniquity of central banks, Helen Vendler on T.S. Eliot, Eric Hobsbawm on the Russian Revolution.

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Paul Foot on Tory sleaze, Christopher Hitchens on

A life sentence in cyberspace

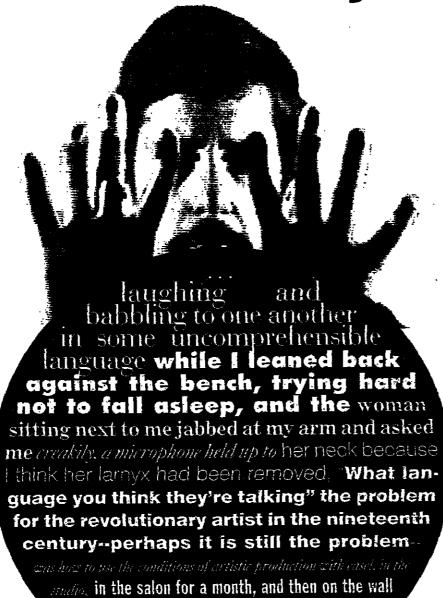
William Hartston meets the man who hopes his work will never come to a full stop

Say fellers, wouldn't it be a great idea if everyone in the world, or at least on the Internet, 'cos that's the next best thing, all joined together in writing a never-ending sentence to which everyone could contribute whenever and whatever they liked, with the only rule being that nobody can ever use a full stop or put an end to the sentence in any other way, thus ensuring that it would go on for ever and the whole thing would be a sort of global stream of consciousness reflecting the ideas and personalities of everyone, individually and corporately, who contributed to it, making it not only the world's first collaborative sentence but also the world's hugest and most amazing art work of all time, constantly mutating yet with every detail faithfully preserved for

Stop! That's enough! Full stop. There, I've done it. But I hope it has given you the idea. It all started in December 1994, "at the beginning of time as far as digital art is concerned". as Douglas Davis, the man who started the World's First Collaborative Sentence, explains it. Davis is a 63-year-old artist from New York who was one of the pioneers of video art in the Seventies and has been at the forefront of video and performance art ever since. He gained celebrity status particularly through one television interview in which he placed his hands directly on the camera and invited the audience to get up and touch their screens - to meet fingers with him and think about whether they were really touching.

The amazing thing is that many did so. They also enjoyed his participative art works featuring a video-camera, through which the spectator became part of the object being viewed. Such explorations of the ambiguous relationship between performer and audience are taken a step further with the Sentence (which, as its contributors never tire of pointing out, is not really a sentence at all).

Okay, it's a nice idea, but is the World-Wide Web (aka the Net-nerd nation) any place to expect creative collaboration? Douglas Davis admits that when it began, he did not know what to expect. "I didn't know if we would attract an audience, or what type of audience." But he soon decided that the Sentence was indeed providing a worthy display of "the wit and dexterity of the Web world". It shows, he says, "the diversity and unpredictability of vou read the thing? It's full of stupidity.



of a sitting room in the Faubourg Saint-Germain?

bepass the art market or the

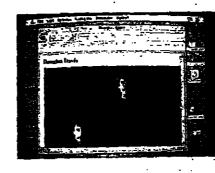
the world's mind". Diverse definitely: unpredictable, unarguably - but is it good for anything?

orical anger. But there's one thing you don't see. You don't see stupidity."

Hang on a moment. I said to the crea-

We never really resolved that point, nor did we reach any clear conclusions about the relationship between concept The sentence tells you there is a lot of and content in such a collaborative work spunk out there - brilliance and rhet- of art. The concept is magnificent: an allembracing, world-wide, teach the world to sing in perfect harmony, unending Coca-Cola ad of perfection. But the

content is predominantly sad and dreary. The Sentence would now be some 500



pages long if printed out single-spaced, in a small type size, on A4 paper. Many thousands of people have contributed to it, in a wide variety of languages (but mainly English), and more than 150,000 have logged on to the site to read at least a part of it. It has become the world's largest wall of cyber-graffiti, with a lot of filth (none well enough written to be exciting), a good deal of self-pitying, and just the occasional gem of genuine wit or expressive writing. But there is no doubt that the Sentence is an important cultural

Many of us have played the game where each person in turn adds a letter to an ever-growing word, the only rules being that you must never complete a word, but you must always have in mind one that can be completed from the letters so far played. Some of us have played a similar game in which a sentence is written one word at a time, the only rules being that it has to make sense, and may never come to a full stop. Mathematicians among us may even have played a game where players add digits one at a time to a number, trying to keep it prime and losing a life if another player can name a divisor.

But none of this can compare with a game played simultaneously by thousands of people around the world, all contributing to the same sentence. This is surely the ultimate word game. It is just rather a pity that the people playing it do not yet seem to have realised its potential. Or if they have, then perhaps it wasn't such a good idea in the first place.

If you want to contribute to the Sentence, or just see how it's getting along, the best place to start is at: http://math 240.lehman.cuny.edu/art.

If you want something even more exciting, you will have to wait until 1 May, ing, you will have to wait until 1 May, when Douglas Davis's next Web project is unveiled. The objective is a collaborative redesign of the perfect human body from examples sent from all over the world. Download a body of your choice, improve it, and send it back. "Let the world have its say," says Douglas Down." have its say," says Douglas Davis. "Nobody knows what the world will say."

Games people play Pandora Melly improves her social game-playing skills

Celestria Noel, social editor of Harpers & Queen' magazine

I play pelmanism with my daughter Catherine, who is sixand a half. This is the game where you lay all the cards face down on the floor, and have to turn up two cards at a time. The person who gets the most pairs wins, and the trick is to remember where the pairs are.

When she was younger, we used to play with "Spot the Dog" cards, and I often had to force myself to forget that Steve the Monkey was right next to me, as Catherine like most children - is a bad loser. When they are tiny, you have to let them win a bit, or they get disappointed and give up. Now that she is older we play with real playing cards, and I'm torn between beating her so that she will learn to be a good sport, or letting her win to encourage her. As they get older, you have to be cleverer about losing on

purpose, as they get suspicious. Most people play Snap with

their children, but when they're very young, they take ages to recognise a pair of cards, and you can get a bit bored staring out of the window until they notice. At least pelmanism is more fun for the adult, as it offers the chance to test your own memory.

I am hoping that Catherine will develop card sense, which is a useful thing. The world is divided between those who do and those who don't have it. Enjoying card games can be a blessing, and it is useful in a situation when you are with a group of people who may not otherwise have much in common. When playing bridge, for instance, you do not have to make polite conversation for its own sake, so it can be very

For budding social editors wishing to hone their professional skills and test their memory, we recommend Royalty, a board game based on knowledge of royal history. £27.99 from Hamleys (0171-734 3161 for mail order details).

Don't junk it ... use it How to drink beer without fearing a power cut



As you settle in front of your television set, preparing to sip your way through a six-pack of lager and watch a good latenight programme about synchronised macramé or feng shui for bed-sits, do you ever harbour dark fears that a power cut may disrupt your pleasure? If so, here is a remedy that I have found infallible: When you have drained your first can,

cut off its top and bottom with a strong pair of scissors as indicated in the diagram. Then cut down the vertical dotted line and open out to form a flat

Cut about 4cm off the long side to leave a piece about 14cm by 16cm. Then - and this is very important if you do not want to food-process your fingers at the end of the operation, crimp the edges with a pair of pliers by folding in a narrow hem all the way round.

Turn the previously saved bottom end over, with the concave side uppermost, and place it on the metal sheet. Now all you have to do is scrunch up the sheet to leave the can-bottom sitting comfortably inside a tent-like

construction. And there you have it - the beer-can candle-holder. Adjust it with long-nose pliers to improve the shape and grip on your candle, ensure that a box and now you may return to enjoy your second can without fearing any interruption from power cuts.

Except, of course, to the television synchronised macramé and feng shui, which probably wasn't all that exciting anyway.

Bawn O'Beirne-

The games page is edited by William Hartston

Edited highlights (and lowlights) of the World's First Collaborative Sentence

I DID NOT FEEL SEPARATED I FELT VERY CLOSE EVEN THOUGH WE WERE THOUSANDS OF MILES APART AND I WAS SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE HERE I FELT CLOSE HOW ARE YOU THIS IS DURBAN WE FEEL WE ARE A PART OF THE WORLD AT LAST IN THE PALACE HERE I AM WAITING FOR THE PRESIDENT I SEND YOU

GREETINGS HERE I AM IN THE GALLERY LOOKING AT THIS BIG PENCIL I AM LAUGHING COGITO ERGO SUM GO GO GO SENTENCE swing swing swing ring ring ring ring letherethereeverywhereGUMBOGUMB Oheliholei DON'T KNOW WHAT TO

in all caps is getting a bit tiresome and why does this sentence have sound so disgusting and arty who do think we are james joyce's greatgrandchildren or some kind of gertrude stein ... ISNT IT JUST FUN TO WRITE TOGETHER LIKE THIS millenial exaggerations overstate our singularity basic humanity is as lonely as (I'm feeling a bit spacy) there are a lot of things that could be said, but i don't know what to say but I want to say it my father is coming near have to stop now he always comes upstairs like this in the middle of the night dust follows dust in the endless progression of biological kitchen-ware and still I was there, alone

on a large vast sea of metaphorical water, waiting for the sun to rise and shed some light on me, the fish, the frog. the boat and the lake THERE WAS A YOUNG MAN FROM BOMBAY ON A SLOW BOAT TO CHINA ONE DAY WAS TRAPPED IN THE TILLER BY A SEX CRAZED GORILLA AND CHINA'S A LONG WAY AWAY And down went the bucket into the subconscious ... but you can find bits in German. Polish, French. Italian, Spanish, Dutch and other languages I could not even recognize, so it's global all right but not only, the content of the Sentence itself gives a very good sociological view of Net users: ... some are writing off their phantasms as

MODIO OU S BLSTIIN taking this Sentence as a game and take up the challenge of writing on and on what goes through their mind just to be part of history; because this sentence is now part of history. Doug, good jab wid de sentence and not only that but a question mark or exclamation ends a sentence too but we can't have that now can we as watch the moon glide with dolphins in the rain and, tah dah! the End!? not allowed when goin' for the longest? c'est bon! ... finish this sentence jerky and let our voice echo through interstellar space ... and that, my liege, is how we know the Earth to be bananashaped; he's dead, Jim;

Chess William Hartston

Such delicate strategy is

all very well at 40 moves in

and-tumble of 30 minutes

11.Bh3 had so obviously

thought Black could have

done something about it.

organising a defence was

not so easy. As the game

went. Black relied on his

counter-attack with Qc4

to ignore the black queen

and Qxa2, but it was

and pursue his own

aggressive inclinations. 25.Rd6+! (when

way to begin the final

mate, was a suitably

25...Bxd6 26.exd6+ leads

to a quick mate) was a nice

onslaught and 27.e6! with

its decisive threat of Of7

vigorous finishing touch.

White: Colin Crouch

- particularly when

that one would have

In practice, however,

White's 9.h4, 10.g3 and

badly unstuck.

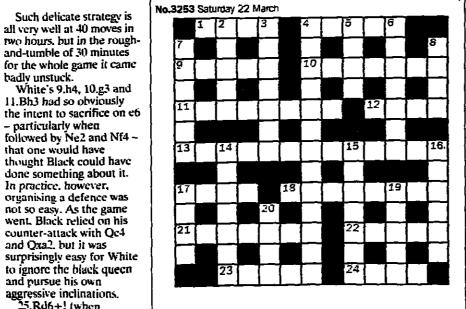
The ICI Katalco quickplay tournament at Norton Hall near Middlesbrough last weekend attracted a strong field, including five grandmasters, but the top names proved to be extremely accident prone.

In the opening round. Michael Adams, the top seed, blundered away a piece early on against one of the lowest-rated players. Staying calm, however, he contrived to confuse his opponent so well that he went on to win the game. That experience seemed to convince Adams that any effort spent looking for the best moves was liable to be wasted, so he spent the rest of the event playing very fast, getting some dubious positions, but always bamboozling his opponents

as they ran out of time. As pure chess, it was hardly impressive, but from a practical point of view it was the perfect formula. And nobody can argue with a score of five out of five.

The best game of the event was between the two runners-up, where grandmaster Bogdan Lalic was brilliantly upset by International Master Colin Crouch. Black's opening play has a high-class Karpovian tinge to it: he accepts a cramped position and a lag in development in exchange for the hishon pair which, he hopes, will become a powerful force if White pushes forwards too fast and opens the game.

Concise crossword



ACROSS

Packing-case (5) Foreigner (5) 10 Children's room (7) 11 Self-determination (4.4) 12 Suspire (4) 13 Subject of telephone

Black: Bogdan Lalic 1 d4 Nf6 16 Bxe6 Nxe6 17 Ndxen fxen 2 Nf3 e6 3 Bg5 h6 18 Nxc6 Qc4 4 Bxf6 Qxf6 19 Nxg7+ Kf7 5 e4 do 20 Nf5 Qxa2 6 Nc3 Nd7 21 Qc3 Bf6 7 Od2 a6 22 Nxd6+ Ke6 8 0-0-0 Qd8 23 e5 Be7 9 h4 c5 24 Nxb7 Rhc8 10 g3 Qc7 25 Rd6+ Kf7 11 Bh3 h5 26 QE+ Ke8 12 Rhe1 Bc7 27 e6 Rxc2+ 13 No2 Bb7 28 Kxc2 Rc8+

14 Nf4 cxd4 29 Rc6 J-0

Fringe of hair (4)

sales calls (6-7) 17 Season of fasting (4) 18 Old coin (8) 21 Cocktail (7)

22 Himalayan kingdom (5) 23 German city (5) 24 Hebridean isle (4)

DOWN

Self-evident truth (5) Army commander (7) Inferno (13) Yorkshire river (4) Retired professors (7) Shattered (6) Legend (4)

14 Disconcert (7) 15 Word of oppposite meaning (7) 16 Silly laugh (6) 17 Fruit (4) 19 Drive (5)

20 Prejudice (4)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Puenle, 5 Asian (Poor relation), 8 Doses, 9 Aerosol, 10 Action 11 Iceni, 12 Banana, 14 Steady, 17 Recur. 19 Overall, 22 Nig-gard, 23 Sawso, 24 Teost, 25 Relieve, DOWN: 1 Padre, 2 Eastern, 3 lb-sen, 4 Enable, 5 Airlift, 6 Issue, "Nullay, 12 Barenet, 13 Narrate, 15 Analyse, 16 Condor, 18 Cigar, 20 Easel, 21 Loose,

Bridge Alan Hiron

Game all; dealer South North **◆**K852 7Q73 OOJ8 **4**865 West **♦**3109764 **♦Q**3 Ø9862 01075432 ♦96 **+**Q 10 3 2 49 South ♥AKJ104 ♦A K **♦**AKJ74

"It was the best hand I have held for years!" complained South after this deal. "And I still ended with a minus score!" Can you find a way for declarer to have done better?

South had opened 24 and after North's semi-positive response of 2NT it was difficult to avoid attempting a grand slam. They managed it, however, and the final contract was 6♥ by South. West led a trump and declarer looked approvingly at dummy's three small clubs. It

Pin Money

number," said the professor as he slipped his card into the machine, "because if you spell out each digit as a word, then add up the positions in the alphabet of each letter used, the total is equal to the number itself." What was the professor's pin number? ("0", if used, is to be spelt as "zero"). The sender

looked as though Seven would have depended on the club

finesse. Perhaps that was why South was over-confident about making Six. He won the lead in hand, cashed another top trump to reveal the 4-1 break, and unblocked his top honours in both spades and diamonds. Then he crossed to dummy's ♥Q, took one discard on + K, and attempted to take another on OQ. Oh dear! East ruffed this and, although South was able to over-ruff, he found that he still

result, went one off. Solution? To ensure his contract against most adverse distributions, South should start by drawing all the missing trumps before unblocking in spades and diamonds. Then he follows with the ace and a low club! If the suit breaks 3-2, he is home and dry; however, if it divides 4-1, then whoever wins the trick will have to lead another club for South to come to four tricks in the suit or give dummy an entry to its two

Perplexity

"I can always remember my pin

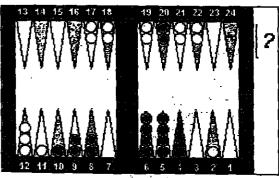
had two clubs to lose and, as a

seemingly abandoned winners,

of the first correct answer opened on 2 April will win a copy of the new Chambers 21st Century Dictionary. Answers to: Perplexity, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

8 March answers: Neighbours (hours being), Eastenders (sneer sated), Emmerdale (rammed eel) Winner: Mrs P Hemmings, (London)

Backgammon Chris Bray



Here's a position from the 1994 Costa Rica final between Mike Svobodny and Mike Senkiewicz Svobodny, White, owns the cube and has a 5-1 to play.

How should he play it?

First, what is his plan? That is quite simple: he wants to escape his back man and get into a holding game where he will have the advantage, and as he owns the cube he will be seeking to win the game with

There are two plays to consider, (a) 14/8 (b) 23/18, 14/13. Play (a) sits on the position and hopes for something better next time. Play (b) forces the issue but leaves 27 shots (any throw containing a 1,2 or 3).

At the table, Svobodny quickly decided that 27 hits was too many and played the quieter 14/8. But let's look at some of those hits, for example 1-6, 2-6, 2-5, 2-4, 1-5, 1-4. They may hit but they leave Black with an ugly position and a lot of exposed blots.

Indeed, with rolls such as 6-1 and 6-2 it is probably right not to hit but to build the 4-point. The key learning point here is that not all hits are

equal, and it is important to consider the resultant position after a hit rather than just the number of hits. Of course, in a position where all 27 hits win outright you wouldn't leave a blot, but here the hits aren't decisive and in fact they deflect White from his game plan of priming Black's last man. In the game, White's next roll was 5-1 and Black's

4-3, a sequence which would have produced a white man on the bar had Black played correctly. However it enabled White to make the 4-point and a couple of rolls later White had a full prime. Our old friend Jellyfish, the neural net computer program, prefers move (b) to move (a) by a very large margin. So, remember, don't just count shots; visualise the results of being hit by those shots.

For the weather, traffic reports, the sky at night, and Damien Hurts' cartoon sage of artistic angst ... turn to page

ا مكذا من الأصل

تعكدًا من الأصل

interview

Mark Radcliffe, at ease with both nob culture and slob culture: 'Yeah, | like poetry. I might ead John Donne and "Loaded" magazine in the same evening

> PHOTOGRAPHI NEWSTEAM

the radio behind A tinny backbeat started up, like the "Tssst... tssst" noise that snakes from the personal stereo beside you on the Tube. A cacophony of wacky recordings assailed me like a blizzard, and a voice intoned the words "Good morrow, waking souls" like a town crier in a Restoration comedy. Without preamble, I was suddenly listening to Kula Shaker playing "Hush". The time was 7am. The last time I'd heard "Hush" ("I thought I heard her calling mah name now..."), it was by Deep Purple, circa 1968. The words "Wakey wakey", or at least a mangled variant of them, used to be the call-sign of Billy Cotton, the rubicund impresario of the 1950s. The "Good morrow" was nearer the 1650s. Into what retro hell had I awakened?

Then I remembered. I was doing some elementary research before meeting Mark Radcliffe, the new man on the Radio 1 Breakfast Show. For the first time in a decade or two, I was deserting Sue McGregor and her attendant lords on Today to check out the wacky, zany voice of Radio Yoof. He is, let me remind you, the man who took over from Chris Evans five weeks ago, the man on whom the fortunes of Radio 1 depend, the man in whom Matthew Bannister has placed his most sacred trust, the man who can change the listening habits of millions of 18-25s...

All are important reasons for meeting Mr Radcliffe; but there's one more. Radcliffe has Added Value. As people went out of their way to tell me, he is not as other DJs. He is a Radio 4 sensibility in a Radio 1 playsuit. He is a man of learning and discomment, who introduced serious poetry and arty discussions into the evening slot on Radio 1, a chap who could hold his own with George Steiner and Christopher Ricks - and who, by virtue of his ease with both nob culture and slob culture, will become the bridge by which Radio 1 listeners will gravitate, in time, to Radio 4.

The only stumbling block to this excit-ing theory is Mr Radcliffe's show. It is hard to listen to its combination of yapping. Mancunian cross-talk and idiotic quizzes without feeling your brain starting to leak out of your ears. And there is the problem with Mr Radcliffe's partner and comic foil, Marc Riley, invariably known as "Lard". His function in the show is inscrutable. beyond uttering wholly phatic observations such as "Did yer?" and "Really?" and shouting "Good call!" (after a furious riff from Raddiffe) or "Doreen from Bradford, get the bus!" (in answer to a reader's request that he helps to hasten her daughter's departure). Despite assurances that the show is "chock-full with quality items", the prevailing tone is of slightly desperate self-deprecation. "We're the egits with yer eggs and the morons with yer muesli," observes Radcliffe with pride, "the tosspots with yer toast and the wazzocks with yer Weetabix." The co-presenters reflect on items in the paper, complain about shoddy workmanship, the decline in public services because nobody has come to remove a blue plastic bag from the tree outside their window) and the flagrantly mendacious promise of "freshly cut sandwiches" on post-BR trains. They argue about these crucial topics in voices of mounting hysteria, an act clearly deriving from Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer though rather closer to the pub just before closing time. Signs of cultural "crossover" are disappointingly few, beyond a squib of verse from John Hegley and the Busy Buzzy B competition in which all the answers begin with "b" ("Whose catchphrase is 'What's up, Doc?'?").

Is Mr Radcliffe, then, adjusting his discourse for an audience of epsilonminuses? Or biding his time until he knows his listeners well enough, upon which he will bombard them with lectures on Hegel or Connexity or Gender Quake? What, in other words, is he up to?

"One of my favourite compliments," said Radcliffe when we met, in a Manchester restaurant, "was from a guy who works as a roadic for a symphony orchestra. He said, 'I like your show, because it's just like an ordinary bloke 'avin' a go". It was a real backhanded compliment, but I thought it was a compliment nevertheless. It's like all



Is this the One to wake our souls?

meets...

when you've got nothing to say.

Not everyone has welcomed their ordinariness with unmitigated joy. "We got a lot of southern hate mail, initially," said the breakfast champion. A barrage of faxes from the South, saying, I don't pay my licence fee to bear scummy northern bastards'. Some of them even accused us to trying to be 'too East End', which I don't understand. I think people misinterpret what we do as striking a blow for the North, because we chose to do the programme from here. But it's not about saying 'Manchester is great' or anything. It's just that this is where we live and it's great we didn't have to move. If you're just playing records and talking crap in between, you can do it anywhere."

All the self-deprecation – was it to stay one jump ahead of the hate mail or did they mean it? "It's just honest, isn't it? We're just chancing our arm, doing what we do. But it's a defence mechanism. If you set yourself up as fantastic, you're easy to knock down. Of course we think we're absolutely fantastic, really...' The listening figures that will declare the

Mark 'n' Lard show a hit or a scurnmy fiasco will not be out for another couple of weeks. They're expecting a ratings drop of about 10 per cent from the Chris Evans hoyday. "Everyone seems happy about that," says Radcliffe cheerfully. "Whatever the relative merits of me and Chris Evans. when you make a change from something people are used to you always get a drop."

Did he know what Evans made of the new show? "T've no idea, I used to work with Chris at Piccadilly Radio. He was just helping out, answering the phones and doing what he could. And we were in this band

'Oh anyone could do that'. Well yeah, but Big Band, I played drums and organ at the nation's somnolent youth. you have the confidence to keep talking same time, and he used to sit on the side of the stage and read the paper. I haven't more self-contained than his radio persona seen him for a couple of years. But he's might suggest. Sharply if monochromically supposed to have recommended us to Ban-dressed (Reservoir Dogs suit from Next.

nister when he walked off the show, so in a sense he elected his own successors." Radcliffe was born in Bolton, the son of a journalist on the local Evening News.

the BBC. His father reviewed classical music and took his son to orchestral concerts enough of a grounding in the classical repertoire to land the future DJ a job, briefly, as Head of Music at Piccadilly Radio. At school he was "good at English, shit at Maths, not sporty at all, and always in a band, mostly as a drummer". His teen fascination for "prog rock" dinosaurs like Hawkwind, Gong and Amon Duul was overturned by the arrival, at Bolton Tech. of Dr Feelgood, the

then the Daily Mail and

deeply wonderful Canvey Island pub rockers led by Lee Brilleaux. The young Radcliffe gazed in wonder at

bad haircuts. We thought it was fantastic, nailed their bits to a table in a caravan." because it seemed like a pretty realistic aspiration to be like that". Then punk, then Manchester University, then a radio career as producer, presenter, and -

the people in the past, who said about DIs, together, Frank Sidebottom's Oh Blimey finally - Wake-upper General of the "about 1983. I think it was, I've no idea cliffe speared a tube of penne all anathri-

white shirt from Marks), sharp-featured and sideburned, he looks a good deal vounger than his 38 years. You could mistake him for a popular-with-the-boys English teacher

> school. What makes him an attractive DJ presence is precisely that air of decency combined with a readiness to say the unsayable. Such as the time on Channel 4s The White Room IV rock show, when Iggy Pop was grinding away on stage, naked of chest and transparent of trouser; "Iggy Pop," yelled Radeliffe

> at a northern state

John Walsh to camera, "He's a legend. He's a star. But is he going to get his knob out? On Radio 1, he is more circumspect, stopping short of the wildly tasteless. Discussing the Spanner consensual-sado-masochism case, Radcliffe mused. Apparently

these four blokes in ill-fitting suits and this case was about these four men who

"Amazing that, in t it?" countered Lard. "Getting four men inside a caravan..." "I was given a copy of the BBC's guidelines about taste and sex," says Radeliffe.

Radeliffe in the flesh is less laddish and safe pair of hands. It's a bit pathetic that people have this need to be shocking and controversial and push it too far. I don't think the barometer of whether a show's good or not is how many people complain."

He has been unimpressed by the reaction of the newspapers to the brouhana over Radio 1 last year. "Increasingly, the broadsheets seem to be reflecting the tabloid agenda," he said in one of his odd periodic bursts of committee-speak. "It goes back to when Matthew Bannister took over. The Sun had a picture of him sliding down a banister and knocking his bollocks off on the - what d'you call the thing at the bottom? Newel post. But then you get The Independent and The Guardian leaping in and saying. Bannister is ruining Radio 1'. as if Dave Lec Travis and Simon Bates had been paragons of culture in this country. Speaking of culture, what was all this

about him and poetry? How did the most recondite of literary forms fit in with the lowest common denominator of broadcasting? Radcliffe explains. "When we started the evening show, it occurred to me that poetry was something that could work because of the way pop radio is structured. in short bursts of speech." So he encouraged Simon Armitage and Glvn Maxwell to read their work. "But it wasn't a mission to take culture to the masses, I think lots of false boundaries get drawn. In Italy, there's deemed to be no difference between going to the opera and going to a football match. I think that attitude s starting to pervade English society. Poetry used to be a Radio 4 thing which Radio 1 couldn't touch, I don't think that's valid. It's all there.

available to anyone who wants to try it." like poetry. Yeah I'll read it at home, because I can't do anything else,"

although I might read, I don't know. John Donne and Loaded magazine in the same evening. I don't have a problem with that, We're not trying to occupy an intellectual high ground on the show, which is very knockabout. But the show's catch-phrase 'Good morrow, waking souls' is an allusion to Donne's 'The Good Morrow' - you know. Bisy old foole, unruly sonne. The best line from the poem - And makes one little roome an everywhere - is fantastic. the whole world being encapsulated in this one room, because you're so into what you're doing. Which is, basically, shagging."

Radcliffe's bracing perspective on liter-ature extends to the whole business of populism. I asked him about the crushing phrase "dumbing down" that my Independent colleague David Walker had used about him (in warning that "popular culture is intolerant of idiosyncrasy"). Radwhere they are now, but I think we're a very ata. "I think there's a basic misunderstanding here of the words 'dumb' and fun'. Things like the Busy Buzzy B game on the breakfast show, it's a completely banal, stupid, crass game, right? But everybody participating in it is aware of the irony in that. To resent the fact that it's fun is a very snobhish attitude. If something's fun, taking the piss, having a laugh, then it's assumed to be dumb. I don't buy into that at all. Our agenda is just to get from one record to the next and have a laugh and I don't see any intellectual low ground inherent in that". Could be fit snugly into bed with a Radio 4 audience? "That'd be great. But the idea that the people who listen to the Today programme don't want fun is ridiculous. I'm sure they'd be delighted if they could win a van or a foot-

bath like on this morning's show." Radeliffe is interestingly critical of Melvyn Bragg, the doven of smart debate. for what he sees as a failure of judgement. "I think Start the Week is rubbish. It tries to occupy an intellectual high ground and has to argue in a really combative way, which isn't necessary. Melvyn Bragg sometimes is just rude." Doesn't it make for more exciting radio? "No, it's unpleasant. What people want is to see things defily manocurred."

At 38, he's about twice the age of his core audience of waking souls, but it doesn't bother him. What did he see himself doing at 50? "Broadcasting, I think, once a week somewhere, maybe. I've always done shows that were driven by the music I like and I don't know if that's possible any more. Or if it's possible to backtrack, once you've put your head above the purapet and gone into Today time. I'll probably finish up doing the mid-afternoon show on Radio Northwich. Did he read poetry at home! "Yeah. I But I'm sure I'll still be broadcasting - just

belong to a deeply unfashionable minority - we few, we allegedly traumatised few, who have actually seen the film Crash in Britain. Exactly 950 of us viewed it at the London Film Festival last year. That's several hundred fewer than those who have been fulminating against the film ever being shown. I failed to spot Virginia Bottomley, Yusuf Islam or the leaders of Hull or Chester councils at the screening. though they are all among those encouraging the banning and boycotting of the film. And what of the much-quoted critic who labelled the film "beyond depravity"? He wasn't there because he doesn't exist. No critic ever-used this phrase. It appeared in a newspaper headline and the convenight belongs to the headline writer.

atmosphere. The characters searching for thrills are sad and unfulfilled. I watched the film alongside its director, David Cronenberg, who stresses that the car crashes were "a metaphor for the collision of present technology and the human psyche". Mind you, Cronenberg told me afterwards that psychotherapists in his home country, Canada, have now informed him that every

and unerotic background

from being titillating or socially

subversive, its sex scenes are cold

and sterile, played out to a bleak

One of the most welcome sights at the Evening Standard's ballet and classical music awards ceremony

week they get clients who do

indeed experience sexual arousal

him and, I suspect, not terribly

from car crashes. This was news to

helpful to his metaphor argument.



on Thursday was that of Viviana Durante on stage, even if just to present an award. The Royal Ballet's sensuous, ethereal and compelling principal artist has been notably absent from the company - on sabbatical for many months now. It turns out she is dividing her time between exercise classes to keep the balletic muscles in shape and voice



classes for her new non-balletic enthusiasm - acting, "But dancers do act, thank you very much," balletomanes will be buffing, And quite rightly. But as Viviana tells me, too many stage and film directors fail to acknowledge this fact and the crossover from dancing to acting Dame Muriel Spark said on rarely occurs. In her last season,

Anastasia and The Sleeping Beauty a dramatic prowess and sensibilities which had most critics reaching for superlatives. It would not surprise me at all if she turns out to be in the vanguard of cultural crossover.

receipt of the British Literature Prize on Wednesday that she

would be using her £30,000 award to buy "a lovely, new, suitable motorcar". But just what sort of vehicle does a novelist in her prime (she is 79) buy? The lovely, suitable motorear that Dame Muriel wants turns out to be an Alfa Romeo. The crême de la creme, and exactly what Jean Brodie would have driven herself if she had had the chance.

If you blinked you will have

missed it. But then perhaps you were intended to miss it. Labour's Jack Cunningham launched the party's strategy for cultural policy and the Arts last Tuesday. Barely a line appeared in a newspaper. There was no coverage on television. Tony Blair did not honour it with a single soundbite. The party released its Arts document on the first day of the campaign,

when it was inevitably elbowed out by other concerns. It all sounds as if Labour wants to keep its strategy for cultural policy deadly quiet. If so, it's a pity. The document is somewhat lacking in The Big Idea but it's not short on initiatives that might actually help both artists and attenders of arts events. It contains a commitment to an Arts Card for 16- to 19-year-olds guaranteeing concessionary admission prices: pay-what-youcan nights for all ages at theatres on Monday nights, and the much heralded Nesta, the national endowment whereby wealthy stars and inventors leave some of their copywrights and patents to fund future generations of young artists and scientists. So my first question to Mr Blair in the TV debate would be: "Why did you want to hush it all up?"

Durante demonstrated in both Crush is a minor movie but far Thank you, thank you. Serena 'how could we have done it without her' Mackesy with a preview of a profoundly sincere Oscar acceptance speech. Page 👶



OPERA Haydn's Orfeo Queen Elizabeth Hall, SBC, London

voce treatment of the heroine's departing aria.

a wonderfully refined

from Kurt Streit, who husbanded the resources of

Orpheus' response to Eurydice's death summoned

demonstration of bel canto

his voice to reveal its winning

unmannered expression. His natural legato and breath

control were in place for his

"Rendete a questo seno".

with messa di voce shading

and clear diction adding to

The role of Creonte, well

greater degree of emotional

involvement than it received

likewise, the entire cast, with

the exception of McFadden, appeared unwilling to

singing with simple physical

gestures, sideways glances or

even the slightest hint that

Haydn's work was intended

here, not of the woe-is-me

variety but certainly more

compassionate in kind:

complement their fine

concert hall.

its sheer seductiveness.

enough sung by William

Dazeley, calls out for a

demanding first aria.

qualities of projection and

magine the legal furore if stylish if not blemish free a promoter scuppered an Andrew Lloyd Weber or playing from a chamber-Harrison Birtwistle stage contributions from London Voices, above all highlighting commission after the composer had completed his the work's colour and the side of the bargain. Haydn splendour of Haydn's choral apparently suffered a similar writing. At times Bernius pressed ahead without the fate with precious little fuss. moving straight on to composing his first set of "London" symphonies. For, although his L'anima del unanimous support of his singers, sweeping Eurydice along in her first aria. undermining its tenderness filosofo (The Spirit of the and testing Christiane Oelze Philosopher), commonly otherwise immaculate known by its alternative title coloratura to the limits. of Orfeo ed Euridice, was completed early in 1791, it Although lacking the mezzo qualities necessary to enrich had to wait until the 1951 the lower reaches of her Maggio Musicale in Florence music, Oelze balanced the for its stage premiere, in a production starring Maria Callas and Boris Christoff. vocal equation with radiant. beautifully shaded singing above the stave and a profoundly moving mezza

Thursday's concert performance, part of the London Philharmonic's ongoing Haydn Festival, proved the outstanding musical worth of Haydn's Orfeo, while highlighting its dramatic shortcomings. Cast, conductor and hand can hardly be held responsible, however, for the accretions applied to the Orpheus myth (familiar from the works of Monteverdi and Gluck) by Haydn's librettist. Badini. Halfway through, a sibyl tells the legendary singer that his only hope of restoring Eurydice to life is to trust in the power of philosophy. a proven shield against the torments of Hades. Haydn rescues the scene with a beguiling coloratura aria that makes the strongest possible case for the consolation of philosophy, delivered here by Claron McFadden with abundant personality and the confidence of complete technical surety. I could have done without the distant accompaniment of steamhammers at work in Act 3. perhaps preparing the way for Orpheus' descent to the prosaically, part of the

Jubilee Line extension). Frieder Bernius, not the most gainly of baton-wielders but one with a convincing

Here's metal more attractive

The Danes take their arts so seriously they've put a couple of English women in charge. Malcolm Hayes meets the new brooms sweeping away at Copenhagen's Royal Theatre

company both ways: we can more

easily bring in guest artists if we want

to; and, if the young Danish singers

we're bringing on here are to get the

best opportunities abroad, it's much

better for them to learn their roles in

the original languages from the start."
To judge from the impressive per-

formance I saw of the Pythonesque-

sounding Karmeliterindernes Samtaler,

ie Denmark's first staging of Les dia-

logues des Carmélites, Padmore con-

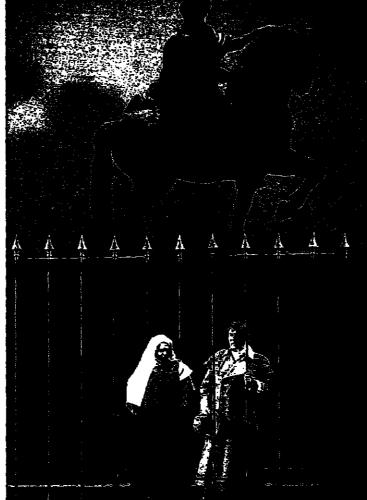
wo English women running the national opera and bal-let companies? It couldn't happen here, could it? Well, no, it probably couldn't. But it's happened in Denmark, Which raises another question. What does Denmark have to offer Elaine Padmore and Maina Gielgud directors respectively of the Royal Danish Opera and the Royal Danish Ballet - that Britain seems not to? I went to Copenhagen to ask them.

Elaine Padmore's credentials as one of opera administration's hottest properties owe a lot to her work outside her native shores. Her 13 years as artistic director of the Wexford Fes-tival in the Irish Republic substantially developed its reputation for shrewdly chosen repertory and skilful casting on a tight budget. Padmore combined her Wexford post at first with that of head of opera for the BBC (where studio performances of works as elaborate and obscure as Havergal Brian's The Tigers took place under her agoist.) I aper she was also artistic

aegis). Later she was also artistic director of Dublin Grand Opera. Then, in 1991, a telephone call from Copenhagen floated the possibility of her becoming artistic director of Denmark's national opera company. This shares the city's beautiful and much-cherished Royal Theatre with the Royal Danish Ballet and the Drama Department. (The tradition of opera. ballet and straight theatre co-existing under one roof is a time-honoured Scandinavian speciality.)

"It had been decided that the Opera needed 'sorting out'," says Padmore. "Here was a long-established company - performing almost everything in Danish, because that was what had always been done - which had got itself into a bit of a time-warp. They also felt that it would be less difficult for a foreigner to make changes than for someone who was Danish."

And what did she inherit when she started the job in 1993? "Essentially. the good and not-so-good aspects of what's meant by an opera company." Such as? The same singer, perhaps. singing the same role season after season, while heading relentlessly date? "Exactly, There was a certain amount of that. But with almost everything being performed in Dan-



ment that goes with it. I've been trying to develop this. And at the same time to work beyond certain situations that have persisted longer than

they should. "There is a Danish repertory, although it's small." One example being Drot og Marsk (King and Mar-shal) by Peter Heise, regarded by aficionados as Danish opera's major 19th-century achievement, and currently being staged in London by always make sense here to do a comic opera like The Magic Flute in Danish. But, in the age of surtitles,

ter Constance, from Catherine Dubose (French) and Inger-Dam Jensen (Danish, 1993 Cardiff Singer of the World, and a deservedly muchadmired local heroine).

Cornelites was conducted by Jan-Latham Koenig, who had earlier been purring to me about the quality of the Royal Danish Orchestra (which,

Vienna Philharmonic style, also plays orchestral concerns). They'd hardly done any French repertory like this before. Poulenc needs a particular kind of sound ~ soft-grained, especially the strings. Getting them to do this took a while to start with, but they're very responsive." And how has the opera gone down locally? "Well, there's still one critic who noted that it wasn't being done in Danish, and wondered why not. But Elaine takes that kind of thing in her stride."

ideas about casting were defity vindi-cated by top-flight performances, in the leading roles of Blanche and Sis-

While the opera company's stock has been steadily rising since Padmore's arrival, the world-famous Royal Danish Ballet has been going through a period of administrative instability, summed up by the arrival and departure in rapid succession of the arrival directors. One Mains two artistic directors. Cue Maina Gielgud, who this month takes over after 14 years at the helm of the Australian Ballet. While keenly aware of the importance of her new company's tradition, particularly its home-grown Bournouville repertory, Gielgud, too, believes in the benefits of developing

a more international outlook. "There's a lot of talent here Poulenc's magnificent group-portrait-in-music of a Carmelite convent says. "And I want to try to bring it on with a policy of guest exchanges with other companies. The tradition of

the year had given all the limelight to the men). Everyone's French sounded (mostly) not too bad. And Padmore's times out of 10? "Oh, Fd say 10 times

Top girls Elaine Padmore and Maina Gielgud; and a scene from the Royal Danish Opera staging of "Karmeliterindernes Samtaler" (aka

Poulenc's 'Les dialogues des Carmélites') o MARTIN MYDTSKOV RONNE / PAL

out of 10. As a minimum!"

The cultural climate within which Padmore and Gielgud are operating emphasises just how different the tone of life in 1990s Britain is from that in Denmark, with its apparently that in Denmark, with its apparently happy and secure balance between a liked and respected monarchy and a broad political background of social democratic consensus. True, there's the odd spicy Danish diversion such as rival gangs of Hell's Angels attacking each other with rocket-propelled grenades. But it'll take rather more than this recent and widely reported incident to destabilise the Danish instinct for liking life, and liking things like opera and baliet that are perceived to be part of it.

Maina Gielgud puts it in a nutshell.

"The Royal Danish Ballet is very important to the people of Denmark.

important to the people of Denmark. It's seen as a national asset, and they expect to see it thriving." It's a view confirmed by Elaine Padmore's impressions of life at the head of the opera company (to which, would-be headhunters please note, she's committed until the year 2000).

"A few years ago, it was decided that trying to juggle the repertories of the opera and the ballet and the theatre within one building had become too much of a log-jam. So this new performing space was built next door for the theatre company. Now it's being suggested that this might after all be a better home for the opera." And feelings have been running high? "Certainly. But about how best to deploy the resources of whether they should or shouldn't exist in the first place."

guesting is much better established in opera than in ballet, and I think we tonight, Bloomsbury Theatre, Gordon can learn from that." So a period of St. London WC1 (0171-388 8822)

caught up in the French Revolution Tuesday QEH, SBC, London was a gift firmly grasped by the com-SE1 (0171-960 4242) ish, it was bound to happen. The best it has to be right to do most things in eir original language. pany's female contingent (only fair, "There are advantages for the since Wagner's Meistersinger earlier in side of a company structure is the coltheir original language. Andrew Stewart | lective spirit, and the sense of involvegrasp of the score, extracted THE EXHIBITION THE JAZZ CONCERT Wynton Marsalis Star Wars: August Sander The Importance Special Edition of Being Oscar 150 photographs from the documentary series, "People of the 20th Century", the key The film that launched a Simon Callow performs Wynton Marsalis performed his 1994 work Blood on the thousand imitators, made Micheal macLiammoir's Fields, a three-hour jazz producer George Lucas a player, made Harrison Ford a star and settled Alec solo show based on the life and writings of Oscar Wilde. work of the influentia oratorio on the history of photographer (1876-1964) lavery, for which he wrote Excerots include Salome. whose career was ruined by both the music and the Guinness's pension, is back The Importance of Being Earnest, Dorian Gray, De the Nazis, plus landscapes libretto with his Lincoln in a massively hyped new edition, ie slightly retouched Profundis and The Ballad of and flower studies and Centre Jazz Orchestra and the pictures of bombed Cologne three class A vocalists: Jon

EXCELLEN KEY

Adam Mars-Jones raised an eyebrow at "the same old movie with an upgraded subwoofer boom track, new laser ricochets and a special bonus giant slug that talks". "A landmark film. But what it commemorates is baleful ... the beginning of Hollywood's descent into infantilism," groaned the Standard. "None of the new bits contributes anything in narrative terms but, mostly, the result is stunning," nodded Time Out. "The value of those extra four minutes lies far more in their use as a marketing hook than

with computer-generated

extras, which took \$22m in

its opening week in the US. Cert U, on every available

See it on the big screen, it only for Carrie Fisher's Danish pastryheadphone

sighed the FT.

will have to - this Space,"

in any artistic achievement," asserted The Times. "Keep watching - it looks as if we affected, self-conscious

> A supremely elegant thoughtful evening, but don't expect any kind of Nineties take

Paul Taylor described a missed opportunity but found it "genial, witty, sometimes pleasingly hammy, and often moving". "As outrageous, as generous, and as touching as Wilde himself," recommended The Telegraph. "A well-tuned essay being delivered with panache ... two of the most moving passages you're likely to find on any London stage." saluted the Mail. "Exemplary: unsentimental, lucid, lively. absorbing," admired The Times. "Witty, beautiful, compelling stuff," declared the F7. "A highly impressive performance ... induced an enthralled attention," purred The Guardian. "Inadequate...

pomp," snorted the Standard.

Reading Gaol on a suitably

omate set by Christopher

Woods lit by Nick Richings. The Savoy Theatre, London W1 (0171-836 8888)

ever ... Everything stands out, to imply, somewhere in there, a soul that finds itself so strangely in this actual, historical, undeniable self." The world of his photographs is gravid with foreboding, and the future that his subjects can't foresee looms over them like a storm cloud," marvelled The Telegraph, "His forte lay in the steady gaze ... the possibilities he opened up for an art rooted in tough yet numane social observation

are still being explored by

A striking show which should

photographers today," averred The Times.

properly establish

him as one of the

çamera's true

greats.

in which much of his early

(0171-306 0055) to & June

Tom Lubbock did not mince

nis words: "I think he may be

simply the best photographer

National Portrait Gallery

work was destroyed.

the work, was disappointed. "Uncomfortably like watching a rehearsal ... there was some incredible music but ... having failed to establish a stage presence at the beginning, the show struggled to capture the hearts of an audience who were just waiting to be invited inside." "This was Marsalis both delighting his admirers and resoundingly confounding his detractors, including this one ... the best orchestral writing he has ever done," wondered The Guardian. "We drifted out into the streets exhausted but exhilarated. originality, grace and unexpected humour .. superlative performances, roared The Times.

Hendricks, Miles Griffith and

Phil Johnson, a serious fan of

Cassandra Wilson.

European tour.

The final concert in the

Great music, poor concert. Buy the Sony album which comes out next

The pleasures of deviation

DANCE Bound to Please Arts Theatre, Cambridge

loyd Newson's work for DV8 is complex at the best of times. In Bound to Please he has deliberately set out to avoid traditional theatrical pleasures like exposition and resolution in favour of a rich, multilayered approach to his subject. And your chosen subject is? Dance as a metaphor for the elimination of individuality. You have 70 minutes starting from ... Now.

We open with the 67-yearold Diana Payne-Myers in black practice clothes before a wall of mirrors gliding by on the stage-revolve to the tinkling strains of a musical box. Behind her, glimpsed through a narrow doorway, a party of young ravers twitch and shrug within a movement system as coded and uniform as a ballet. Ian Mac-Neil's ingenious set rotates as the scene changes, the walls folding and unfolding On their axis to create discrete spaces that make bril-.

liant use of the small stage. The disco dancers, already counting beneath their breath, metamorphose into solitary waltzers and twirl dreamily through the room until put off their stroke by Wendy Houston, who passes among them disrupting the tidy rhythm of their dance. Back at the dance studio, neatly tricked out in black leotards, the company's

right, right" intones Tannion look like. I have to say, howbriskly. "Wrong," mutters ever, that I have never seen Wendy Houston, who then asks the unthinkable: "Why are we going to do this any-way?" "I'm just trying to get everyone to be the same." Tannion replies, evenly.
That does it. Exasperated by
the tidiness of it all, she sneaks around the studio

pushing dancers off-balance. Although scarcely a narrative work, Bound to Please definitely has a heroine in Houston. Naughty, unconventional and disobedient, she subverts any attempt to sand down the rough edges of her personality. She may obligingly perform an arabesque, then pull down her pants and begin scratching her burn. But the pressure to conform prettily proves too much even for her. "Good Wendy," she says to herself, after completing a dizzy series of fouettes, and slips tragically into the value system that she has hitherto despised.

Once outside the shell of the room, the dancers reveal their other faces: Wendy Houston secretly practises - Payne-Myers stands before a her arabesque on the roof. Diana Payne-Myers and her tion disappear: try too hard young lover embrace in a to please and you lose your narrow corridor. Lloyd Newson is alarmed at dance's To Sat, Arts Theatre, insistence on youth and Cambridge (01223 503333); 2-beauty, and his use of Diana 3 April, Swan, High Wycombe beauty, and his use of Diana Payne-Myers's emaciated naked body is unquestion. eight dancers, led by Robert ably a valid challenge to our Tannion, go through daily assumptions about what class. "Right, left, right, left, dancers are supposed to

a naked 67-year-old washing their armpits in a bucket before and that I am in no particular hurry to repeat the experience. It isn't a matter of age - I have enough trouble with Javier de Frutos. I can't belp finding nudity a distraction: my mind wanders and I start thinking about signing up for a gym or getting a lock for the bathroom door.

By the closing sequence, we are back in the nevernever land of mison with four dancers doing a cheesy little routine of leaps and battements against a Rosenthai blue backcloth to music that slyly parodies the banal minimalism so much in vogue. Their Prozac smiles stretch from ear to ear as they deliver a seamless stream of choreographic junk. It's a set-up, of course unison wouldn't be worthwhile if it were always as bad as Newson's satire suggests but the point is splendidly made. In conclusion, Diana mirror only to see her reflecvery soul.".

(01494 512000); 10-12 April Trumway, Glasgow (0141-287 3900); and touring

Louise Levene

Robert Hanks on radio-aired utopias ... Jasper Rees on TV men commissioning badiy.

مكذا من الأصل

Steaming back to happiness

'The Railway Children' is back. Put out your flags, bring out your handkerchiefs and salute a landmark in British film-making. By David Benedict

worth station. cries Bernard 11.54 steams in. Jenny Agutter, in navy coat and beret, stands on the platform as the few passengers alight from the train and all the naturalistic sounds fade from the soundtrack, to be replaced by the eerily ringing tone of a finger rimming a wine glass. As the train pulls out, the screen fills with back to Agutter's puzzled, expectant face. As the steam clears, Iain Cuthbertson is seen standing at the far end of the platform. A distant piano plays the opening bars of the theme tune and suddenly Agutter sees him. Arms outstretched, she rushes towards the camera and Cuthbertson. Her defiant voice echoing round the empty station; she cries out the most emotionally charged line in British cinema. "Daddy, my Daddy!" She flies to him in long shot, the camera cuts to ground level and we see her feet lift off the platform as she under Bryan Forbes, its new head hurls herself into her father's arms.

If you were of cinema-going age in 1970 or beyond, the chances are you know this scene by heart. Lionel eldest, called Bobbie"), Pete (who lis ("who meant well") was an quarter of a century before. unprecedented

success. At the Royal premiere, the entire audience cheered and gave it a standing ovation. Bernard Delfont turned to Jeffries's wife said. "Lionel's got you

that the BFI has had a new print going on a nationwide release may come as a relief to adults amount to amuse children over the Easter holidays, but has caused consternation among those who take their cinema very seriously indeed. Sight and

akworth. Oak- Sound, the cineastes' bible, will not be featuring it. One suspects they will be a little less snooty when Hitchcock's Venigo is re-released next Cribbins as the month. Yet, even those allergic to enny Agutter, in The Railway Children's carefully constructed naïvety and period charm should look at it in context.

The beginning of the Seventies was the beginning of the end for 10 years earlier and attendances pulls out, the screen fills with were plummeting by around 25 steam but the camera keeps cutting million every year. Even if you personally dislike The Railway Children, it looks like an unassailable giant in comparison with the utterly forgettable fodder that Britain produced that year: the drabbest of sex comedies like Twinky with Susan George, ghastly versions of stage hits like Loot and Spring and Port Wine (Susan George again... why?) or vastly over inflated trifles like Goodbve Mr Chips and David Lean's disastrous flop Ryan's Daughter, which was budgeted around the \$20m mark. The Railway Children, the first film out of the EMI Elstree studio of production, cost just £300,000, which it recouped on its first release, then (as now) a rarity in British cinema. Not merely a parochial suc-Jeffries's film version of E Nesbit's cess, it opened in the States on the 1906 novel about Roberta ("the huge screen of Radio City. Life magazine hailed it as the best famwanted to be an engineer) and Phyl- ily film since Meet Me in St Louis a

> Not until ET, 12 years later, did another children's film have a simi-**▲** Lionel's got you larly emotional effect with perforan insurance policy mances and key sequences burnt into the memory of an entire generation. British cinema has never

an insurance policy for life." News managed to repeat the trick. EMI tried in 1974 with Swallows and struck and that the restored film is Amazons but, as Ken Russell remarked, "I have never read the Arthur Ransome classic, but if it is as dull as the film, I doubt I ever will." Stuart Orme's 1988 film of Joan Aiken's classic The Wolves of Willoughby Chase has an excellent



score by Colin Towns plus a screen version of a period chilthrillingly camp Stephanie Beacham as wicked Governess Letitia Slighcarp but despite sharing its missing parent plot, it cannot compete with Lionel Jeffries's loving rendering of E Nesbit's masterpiece - a volume which he came

across, literally, by accident.

"I was returning to England from America to play Grandpa in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang." Jeffries recalls, "when the train was derailed in Chicago." By the time he and his family were on board ship for the final leg of the journey. he realised that all his books were lost, but his daughters Martha and Elizabeth happened to be carrying a copy of Nesbit's book which, upon their instruction, he read and fell in love with. "As soon as I got home, I bought a six-month option on it for £300, sat down and began to write the screenplay." Trying to sell it was much tougher. MGM were interested but only if he relocated it to America and turned it into a musical with Julie Andrews.

Nobody would touch a faithful

dren's film, until he sent it to his old ter, an actress since her schooldays friend, Bryan Forbes, at Elstree. It was Forbes who persuaded Jef-

fries to direct it. "He said, 'You know you can handle people from your war experience; you paint. which proves you can handle visuals; and you've acted in 10(1-odd films'." In fact, Jeffries had learnt about direction at the age of six when his father bought a camera and projector in 1926. "He did storyboards. I learnt about editing, how you match left and right on the return shot, the lot. Later, whenever I was acting in a film. I'd follow the special effects crew around or watch the lighting cameraman to see why the camera was in certain positions." Forbes gave him cane blanche and, together with pro-ducer Robert Lynn, he assembled

his crew and set about casting. Dinah Sheridan agreed to play the mother and at a meeting at Mayfair's White Elephant club she asked, "Have you got the children yet?" Lynn leant over to Jeffries and said, "Look at the person in the

next booth." There sat Jenny Agut-- not only on film, but in the TV version of The Railway Children. Sally Thomsett and Gary Warren

ditional route of auditions. Warren, now a furrier in Canada. appears to have separated himself from this childhood endeavour, life. Back then, she had already

were found through the more tra-

but everyone else is happy to talk about the experience, which they all recall with unaffected pleasure. Thanks to tall co-stars. flat shoes and the voluminous cut

boyfriend and a new Lotus Elite sports car that I was dying to get my mitts on," giggles Thomsett who. like Agutter, a shade younger, was

into Leeds one night to go dancing. When they returned, they were met by a furious Lionel Jeffries, who gave them a serious dressing-down.

Twenty-seven years later. Agutter, who identified strongly with the character of Roberta, the serious girl on the verge of adulthood, is setting up a film based on Nesbit's

starred in Nico-

las Roeg's atmos-

pheric aboriginal

encounter. Hulk-

about (although

that film was not

released until

after The Railway

Children), "It was

You've made me cry, you bugger 7

strange doing them back to of her pinafore dress. Thomsett. back, one all about innocence and then 20 years old, merrily played a the other all about loss of innocharacter half her age, "I had a cence," she muses, her low, carefully articulated, pale voice still betraying the distant, uninflected restraint which made her the unexpected sex symbol for a generation. forbidden to go to the pub during the shoot. The two of them drove film, "We never approached it as a release on 4 Apr

'The Railway Children': made Jenny Agutter the unexpected sex symbol of a generation and takes us back to an age of vanished English innocence

children's film." declares Jeffries. The mail we received from adults was incredible." He ascribes that to the decision to hold the reins on the emotions. Nesbit's own father died when she was three, the pain of which she returned to again and again in her writing but nowhere so directly as here. There is a comic veneer to the film version which rarely oversteps the mark, as in Perks's birthday party, but its dramatic resonance stems from the loss the children suffer with their father's abrupt disappearance and the fulfilment of their hopes when he returns. Wisely, Jeffries never shows the children crying, but when Roberta accidentally discovers a cutting about their father's imprisonment, Jeffries shot raindrops landing on the newspaper to evoke that response in the viewer.

Alongside its historical importance, it's the film's unique charge that persuaded the BFI's Robin Baker to re-release it. He acknowledges the current nostalgia-boom dreamed up by media thirtysome-things busily re-packaging their childhood, but refutes the charge of opportunism. "I think it's damn good. No other children's film has that emotional impact." His favourite scene is Roberta's birthday party. The whole room is decked out and she appears simply to float across it. They recorded the music before shooting and it was completely choreographed to Johnny Douglas's score. I always cry at that scene." He's not alone. Noel Coward told Forbes it was his favourite film of all time and Gielgud poked Jeffries in the back at an early screening and said. "You've made me cry, you bugger."

Nesbit's story basks in innocence recaptured. Short of long-winded. expensive therapy, we cannot return to our childhood but a trip to the cinema next week may well be the next best thing.

Charity screening in aid of the National Children's Home at the Barbican, London, ECI on 20 Mar. Tickets from Julia Judge (0171-255) 1444). The Railway Children That restraint is the hallmark of the opens on 28 Mar with a nationwide

Every cloud has a sexual lining

Paul Taylor inspects revivals of two plays that were scandals in their day

THEATRE Cloud Nine, Old Vic / Misalliance, Birmingham Rep

for life 7

air of a period piece, for as Tom Cairns's splendidly acted and designed revival at the Old Vic establishes, this work may be of an

much the same route as our recent gored through the wall), the design collective history. We start out as offers an ideal background for the repressed, guilty, ill-informed Victorians; sexual intercourse, with apologies to Larkin, eternally it is not just the natives who are begins in some platonic version of restless nor merely the white man's 1963; and only by painful degrees do we become liberated Seventies erotic experimenters.

Also evocative of the parallel between colonial and sexual oppression, the first act is set among Victorian imperialists in darkest Africa, the second in lare 1970s London. Between times, a century has elapsed, but the characters have only aged by 25 years. With figures from the 19th-century world making brief, spectral visits to the park where most of the

t is no disrespect to Caryl second half takes place, the play Churchill's 1979 play Cloud demonstrates that these people Nine to say that it now has the - are our psychological inheritance. It celebrates the capacity for change, but it does not pretend that the past can be thrown off lightly.

There's a marked difference of

establishes, this work may be of an era but its provocativeness is not past its sell-by date.

The weird form of the play reflects the intuitive sense many people have that our libidinal development as individuals follows

There's a market difference of tone between the acts, expertly handled here by Cairns and his crack cast. Representing colonial Africa with a beautiful surrealism (a massive ivory tusk rears up, for example, as though it had just example, as though it had just example. coarse cartoon exuberance of the Victorian scenes where we see that bearing which is erect. Libidos run rampant as the lesbian governess yearns for the administrator's wife who is lusting for his best friend who, in turn, is interfering with his young son and having sex in the stables with his black servant.

To underline that the patriarchal relationships passed off as "natural" are arbitrary and changeable, Churchill stipulates purposefully perverse casting (the black servant

arrive, performed by a gay, disabled gerbil, you wouldn't turn a hair). For the more serious second half, the parts are re-assigned, always with some thematic point. For example, the excellent Dominic West, all shy sad girlishness and underlying frustration as Betty, the wife of Tim McInnerny's

administrator, re-appears in the Seventies as her now grown-up gay son Edward. This young man's suffocating desire to adopt the traditional "female" role in a relationship has alienated his promiscuous lover. Because of the casting, you can see his mother in Edward in a very special sense and this brings home the fact that he gained his stereotyped, soon-to-be

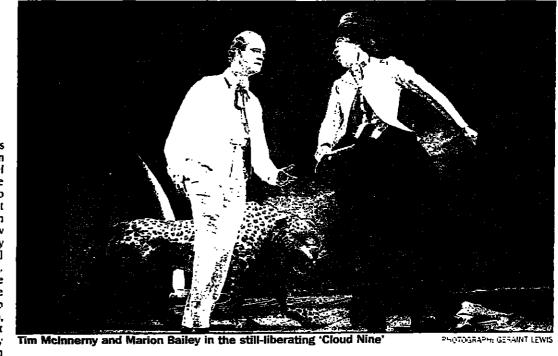
Duvitski, rediscovering selfhood through the delights of masturba-tion, the second half of Cloud Nine can sometimes seem as artificial is played by a white; the little son by a woman et cetera – with 1979 now so far in the past that a Surrey mansion and demands six oranges and a copy of the Bible; a scandalised when reminded that

if Queen Victoria herself were to there will be women voting in this election who weren't born when Churchill wrote the play, you feel that it could stand some of the deconstructive brio she brings to the colonial era. But this play about liberation and its distinction from liberation-in-the-head (Andrew Woodall's Martin is an amusingly conceited example of the latter) still comes over as genuinely liberating.

"Men like conventions because men made them. I didn't make them. I don't like them. I won't keep them. Now. what will you do?" No, not a speech from Cloud Nine, but from Misalliance, a 1910 play by Shaw, revived now in Birmingham by Caroline Eves, which also examines the arbitrariness of much of what we consider natural in sexual exploded view of women from her. politics. One of its characters, for With Edward entering into a example, says that if marriages were polymorphous ménage à trois with made by getting a blindfolded child his sister and her lesbian lover, and to draw out names from a sack with a divorced Betty, now played by an extremely moving Janine centage of happy marriages as we

have here in England".

A Polish female acrobat steps out of the aeroplane that crashes through the conservatory roof of



from his hiding-place in a portable Turkish bath and pulls a gun on the resident millionaire. It would be easy from such details to give the impression that Misulliance is more experimental and proto-Absurdist than is in fact the case. True, the Polish lady acrobat. played with swaggering sang-froid by Abigail Thaw, is a calculated affront to Edwardian notions of

timid would-be anarchist emerges—she has legs under her dress. So you can appreciate the shock value of Shaw's heroine who, all cool self-sufficiency, stalks about in a leather flying-suit Emma Peel might have envied.

But, despite this dea ex machina "man-woman, woman-man" and despite some nice performances tespecially from Paul Humpoletz as the forthright, ridiculously wellread underwear tycoon). Eves cannot disguise the fact that this is a "dream play" only in theory and

for long stretches it is indistinguishable from a garrulous drawing-room comedy. There are one or two gems, though, in the endless jabber, as when the anarchist declares with sublime bathos that "Rome fell. Babylon fell. Hindhead's turn will come."

Cloud Nine', Old Vic. London, SEI (0171-928 7616) in rep 26 April: 'Misalliance', Birmingham Rep (0121-236 4455) to 5 April Paul Taylor



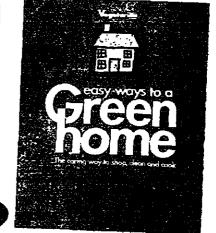
E GREENHOUSE WITH THIS MONTH'S VEGETARIAN GOOD FOOD

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In-jokes and out-takes

Sean French maps the private world of a poetic powerhouse

Prose 1926-1938: Essays, Reviews and Travel Books in prose and verse by W H Auden, edited by Edward Mendelson, Faber, £40

impulse was

so potent that it

him?

ere is W H Auden writing in 1932, in an extract from a work that has appeared in no earlier collection of his poems: scared him.

It is going to be like this to-morrow. nece-officers will flit from slum to

Educational agencies will be besieged. By promising young men who have no incli-

Examiners chuckle over a novel setting of The problem of Achilles and the Tortoise. Fathers vell grand pranos or give up tobacco. That little Adrian or Derek may go To Mariborough or Stowe.

The Auden tone is unmistakable: the shift between incantatory repetition and conversational style, the eye MacNeice) and Journey to a War for detail, the unexpected rhymes, (with Christopher Isherwood). above all the sheet

oracular authority. The reason it has not appeared in cullections of poetry is that it is not a poem. I have reset as verse a paragraph from a review by Auden of three books on education.

In this collection of prose. Auden quotes the definition of poetry as -memorable speech". It was a

gift he possessed to In his first po rejected by TS Eliot as poctry editor at Faber and Faber, and never published, these lines appear: "We saw in Spring/The frozen buzzard/Flipped down the weir and carried out to sea."

It's in the elegy made famous by all the clocks, cut off the telephone," or in the opening of the

terday all the past. The language of size/Spreading to China along the trade routes ..." Auden's lyric impulse was so potent that it almost

The main thing to be said about this outstanding collection of his prose is that it gives us a look around the engine room of Auden's imagination during its most brilliant decade. The range is bewildering, until you remember the variety of verse he was producing during the same period. There are book reviews, manifestos, introductions to anthologies, a pamphlet about educational theory, a history of writing for children, an essay about the relationship between Freudian psychology and art, and of course the two collaborative travel books, Letters from Iceland (with Louis

The editor, Edward Mendelson, (who is 4Auden's lyric Auden's literary executor) rightly included everything, so the variation in quality is great. There are a couple of

attempts almost scared round-ups of graph, but then, himself. 100 pages later. It was

an almost miraculous degree. Think brilliant poem in Letters from Ice- the Thirties and Auden's own staof his gift for lapel-grabbing openings. land about why people read detectus as a poetic spokesman. This Auden was breaking down barriers between the classic and modern. the poetic and prosaic, the private and public, political and lyrical. We follow the same process in these essays. He has an eerie gift for Four Weddings and a Funeral: "Stop adopting different styles, using jargon, adopting, or sometimes just striking, attitudes. Yet tortuous, great political poem. "Spain": "Yes- contradictory, callow though some MacNeice's famous parodic Last editors have now established by the same writer, or man, again.



Fags on board: Christopher Isherwood and W H Auden set off for China in 1938

of his hastily constructed arguments may have been, Auden was in tune with his decade. One of his large themes that recurs through the essays is a preoccupation with crime fiction for the dangers of hero-worship, both the Daily Tele- to the followers and to the leader

It was an argument that conthey inspire the cerned both the political currents of gave an unmistakable charge to his personal mythology of frontiers, spies and tribal betrayals.

Much of this book may seem familiar, consisting as it does of the already available travel books. But they gain considerable interest from being published in their first editions, and for fans of Auden and

Will and Testament, the book will almost be worth its price for the awesomely authoritative, and very funny, notes by Mendelson and Auden's biographer, Richard Davenport-Hines. They explain the weird private jokes and personal references that make up that most Thirtyish of Thirties works.

It was often assumed by disapproving critics that Auden's poetry was a private, possibly homosexual, coteries. What Mendelson and Davenport-Hines have shown is that Auden's friends were as baffled as everybody else. Take the following "bequest": "I leave the wheel at Laxey. Isle of Man, / To Sean Day-Lewis."

This is the world's largest waterwheel: a joking reference (so the

consulting Sean Day-Lewis) to the five-year-old boy's bedwetting problem for which Auden's father, a doctor, was approached. As with Auden's major poem, "The Orators" - which depends integrally on a paper only published in the journal of the Anthropological Institute - the sense of exclusion was itself the meaning. Not quite getting the point was part of the point.

There will be more urbane, by the American Auden, more interested in literature for its own sake. What later essays lose is the sense of impending crisis, of something terrible about to happen. that haunted everything he wrote in the Thirties. When, in September 1939, the terrible thing did happen, Auden would never be quite

Up to a point, Sir Kingsley

Jonathan Keates applauds a last act of faith in good writing

The King's English: a guide to modern usage by Kingsley Amis, HarperCollins, £16.99,

or that swarm of professional croakers who warn us of the nation's collapse in a welter of godlessness and relativism, few things hint more balefully at impending Armageddon than the decline of "good English". The demise of Latin teaching, the "real books" method of learning to read, and the Church of England's rejection of the Prayer Book and the Authorised Version have been variously blamed for this, as has the belief that anything written before 1900 must by its very nature be élitist and the idea that computers will somehow overwhelm the printed word.

None of these bugbears is without substance, but their credibility is diminished by the sense that the person parading them so hysterically is just another pig-ignorant journo unconcerned with establishing a link between cause and effect.

The appearance of a book by the late Sir Kingsley Amis, borrowing the title of the Fowler brothers' famous volume of 1906, might seem to the croakers like an ammunitiondrop among beleaguered guerrillas. Amis is, after all, sustained by reflecting that the defence of the language is too large a matter to be left to the properly qualified". In this amateur capacity, he feels just as much entitled to wage war as

any lexicographer.

As it happens, The King's English (no feminist faffingabout with the royal possession please note) is far from being a posthumous saturationbombardment. The tone is reasonable, urbane, the voice not of the sozzled curmudgeon interviewers liked to evoke, but of a widely read university tutor without chips on the shoulder or axes to grind. Amis is resoundingly opinionated yet never so dogmatic as to reject.

the protean aspects of language. emphatically his own man for this to be a mere style manual. What emerges is a trenchant yet entertaining commonplace book. It ranges over everything from meaning and taxonomy to quirks of fashion and shifts in pronunciation. At no point does he unconditionally demand compliance. It is the sense of

English as his personal enthusiasm which makes us feel that resistance to his point of view must, in the end, appear as simple rudeness.

Respect, if not absolute concurrence, is due to his: emphasis on the increasing value - in a media-driven age of making a moral distinction between speaking and writing.
Talking of "due to", his verdict
on its hoary old Manichean struggle with "owing to" is equally worth attention. Decorum is the arbiter: the ears become "organs of grammatical fitness" and the rule that subordinates "due" to "owing" is "worth following for its own sake, not just in deference to the fact that elderly persons happen to know about it".

Are you a berk or a wanker? Under the former heading, Amis lumps those whose intruded glottal stops and grammatical solecisms suffocate English with impurity, a kind of linguistic pollution. Just as poisonous are the wankers, "prissy, fussy, priggish, prim", who kill by hyper-precision. Kingsley's is the via media between slipshod and punctilious, as he falls like a thunderbolt on the ersarz-posh "hyper-urbanism" of "between you and I", on dangling participles or the abuse of "Up to a point, Lord Copper".

On pronunciation he is pragmatic, or at any rate imbued with an old man's resignation. Girls have long since ceased to behave as gels, though "reckonise" and "seckatry" still course with unhealthy vigour. Now and then he loses the point. The section on "because" is delphic in its opacity. There is no excuse for misapplying "cohort" to mean "henchman", and "fine toothcomb", whatever he may claim as to the availability of such an article in prewar shops, remains a hideous misrendering of "fine-toothed comb". Such lapses merely sharpen the book's edge as a last act of faith in uncorrupted discourse.

As a teacher at the City of London School, where the boy Amis learnt his craft. I feel I have something to live up to. And if you're the sort who jibs at that final preposition, this book is definitely for you.

Independent choice: gardening By Anna Pavord

t is much easier to write about the particular than the general, so all the more praise is due to May Woods for her wide-ranging Visions of Arcadia (Aurum, £25). Taking on the whole of western Europe, she traces the history of a certain kind of garden making, rooted in images of an idealised past, reinterpreted through the eyes of generations of garden makers in Renaissance. Baroque and Rococo modes.

It's a vast theme and she handles it well, showing how ideas - on gardenmaking as well as science and philosophy - moved over boundaries. It's a book about design rather than plants, essential reading for anyone heading this summer towards Italian gardens such as Villa d'Este - or to less well-known gardens such as Queluz, hidden away between Lisbon and Sintra. Ms Woods thinks it the greatest Rococo garden in Europe. I want to go there now. Started in 1746 by the Infante Dom Pedro III and decorated with more than 200 lead statues from John Cheere's workshop at Hyde Park Corner, it is a dreamy garden, its central canal lined with fabulous ceramic tiles.

The book is cleverly organised into chunks that are neither too big to digest nor too small to make you feel cheated of detail. The structure is chronological, moving from medieval gardens and the Renaissance to the wonderfully mad menageries, obelisks and ornamental dog kennels of the Recocu garden, "Every hovel for cows has bells hanging at the corners, wrote Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells to

The World in March 1753. Ms Woods highlights the great Renaissance contribution to garden

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design: the unity of structural elements in a garden. She shows how. by choosing a gardener and engineer to advise him, not an architect. Charles VIII's French gardens never achieved the cohesion of their Italian counterparts. But what Charles lost on the vistas, he gained on the fountains. His hydraulics man, Fra Giocondo, was the best in Europe.

Classical Italy is a lost continent to most of us, but its history and heroes were familiar territory to the educated



Pick of the week Visions of Arcadia by May Woods

garden-makers who inhabit the 350 years of May Woods's survey. The gardens they made were rich in symbolism and classical allusion. illuminated in this elegantly designed and illustrated book.

Easter traditionally marks the opening of the garden visiting season and your licence fee is £3.50, the cost of the new edition of the Yellow Book: Gardens of England and Wales Open for Charity. It lists 3,500 gardens, grand multi-acred mansions, small groups of terraced houses, roof gardens, water gardens and vegetable gardens (my favourite). In London alone, there are 29 new gardens opening for the first time, including

the Chumleigh communal garden in Southwark, where you can see gardening in Oriental, African, Islamic and Caribbean styles.

Because the ratio of available

weekends compared with gardens to visit is so unbalanced, you also need The Good Gardens Guide 1997. edited by Peter King (Ebury Press. £14.99). This is by far the best of the available guides, covering 1,000 of the best gardens in Britain and a few in Europe that are no more than a Shuttle-hop away. It caused a pleasant uproar when it first came out eight years ago because it graded gardens like restaurants and awarded stars to the best. A hundred gardens have the highest two-star rating, including Chatsworth (a thrilling garden at any time of the year) and Ard na Mona, County Donegal. For those who want to make a full weekend of it, there is a useful section on hotels with good gurdens.

A lack of classical education may hinder our understanding of 18thcentury gardens. It also makes us splutter over Latinised plant names. But the names are much easier to remember if you have some inkling what they mean. That is why I love Stearn's Dictionary of Plant Names (Cassell, £14.99). Now 86, the brilliantly erudite Professor William Steam was an authority even by 1930 when he contributed to a session of the Nomenclature Section at the International Botanical Congress.

If, for instance, you have ever wondered about the meaning of meleagris (as in Fritillaria meleagris). look no further. It means "spotted like the guineafowl". How exact. Forsythia, blooming now in a million spring gardens, is named after William Forsyth (1737-1804), the Scottish superintendent of the gardens at Kensington Palace. He invented a "plaister". a mixture of lime, dung, wood ashes, soapsuds and urine, for which he made extravagant, and very dubious claims. I ve never much liked forsythia. I like it much more now because of the knaveish Forsyth.

Crossed in love

Rachel Billington sees sense triumph over sensibility

Obstinate Heart: Jane Austen, A Biography by Valerie Grosvenor Myer, Michael O'Mara Books , £18.99

the age of 41. She died a spinster, not even enjoying the dignity of an engagement like her sister Cassandra, except once, farcically, over a 12-hour period, after which she fled the despised gentleman. She was well-born, even well-connected but poor - or at least less rich than she would have wished to be - all her life. With the exception of Emma, all her six novels are on the same theme: the search by impecunious young women for suitable husbands ~ for suitable, read rich. Yet she herself never achieved this aim. At the end of her life, she wrote to her unmarried niece, Fanny Knight, "Single women have a dreadful propensity for being poor – which is one very

strong argument in favour of matrimony". Valerie Grosvenor Myer has taken this as the theme for her biography, the first of three expected this year. The romantic sounding title Obstinate Heart refers to Jane Austen's determination to remain single despite all the advantages in taking the plunge.

Jane Austen's readers may be glad of this condition since it is unlikely that she would have produced any books at all if she had entered the strenuous service that marriage demanded 200 years ago. Five of her brothers produced between them 28 children and, at one point, every one of them was widowed, their wives worn out by childbearing. Four of them married again and two started further families.

Grosvenor Myer paints a portrait of Jane Austen as a dissatisfied, irritable woman who was trapped within a role that she bitterly resented. This crosspatch will not be recognised by those

ane Austen died in 1817 at who have enjoyed Elizabeth Jenkins's or David Cecil's picture of the engaged family member, the loved and dutiful daughter, the doting sister, inventive, affectionate aunt, who even in the last weeks of her very painful death. drew everyone to her, just for the pleasure of her company.

However, there is plenty of evidence to support Grosvenor Myer's view. Probably one of the reasons that so many are drawn to write biographies of Austen is the curious fact that, although an enormous amount of information about her day to day life is available, mostly through the amusing letters to her sister, Cassandra, these have a way of stopping, or being edited or defaced, at the times of greatest stress. Thus the truth of her romantic life - did she love the young lrishman Tom Letroy? Did she fall in love at the seaside with a possible suitor who then died? Was she ever in despair? - can be an endless source of speculation. Grosvenor Myer does not

allow herself, however, to chase these hares for very long. She finds, instead, much evidence of Austen's disapproval of the endless babies, against which she recommends "the simple regime of separate rooms". Yet she loved individual children and was particularly close to two of her nieces.

Given her feelings about motherhood, and the mitiga-tion of spinsterhood by the lifelong companionship of her sister, it seems likely that money was a far more serious irritant than lack of a husband. Lack of money, which meant lack of servants and entailed all the endless hard work of sewing, bottling, gardening and gener-



Jane Austen: 'determined to remain single' HULTON GETTY

ple, that the Cotillions at the

Bath Assembly Rooms were

presided over by a French pris-

oner of war. More often the

book is a record of births,

deaths and visits, which,

although sometimes repetitive,

build up to an important record

of Jane Austen's exterior life.

be allowed to take our own line.

Sharp withcisms written in pri-

members about other family

members are notoriously mis-

leading when interpreted in the

riding impression of Jane

Austen from her works is that

even liked them for providing

her with good material. If she had lived a thoroughly frus-

vate letters between family

About her inner life, we may

ally making do, kept her from her pen for many years. On her visits to the luxury of Edward's home, she exults, "I shall eat ice . and drink French wine and be above vulgar economy".

That precious writing time came eventually when Edward established his mother and sisters in Chawton Cottage. After publication, she herself earned sums large enough to allow her the pleasure of shopping in London for spotted muslin and silk stockings. If she had lived, she could have looked forward to a happy and productive life. cold light of history. The over-Jane Austen's real tragedy lies io her early death.

Obstinate Heart will provide she liked people, even when my Austen fan with a mass of making fun of them. Indeed, she any Austen fan with a mass of information about her day to day life. Valerie Grosvenor Myer stays very close to her subject, paying only nodding recognition to the events of laugh and love must be considthe day. This allows her room to put in all kinds of fascinating defails which a wider ranging

book might excise.

trated life then her ability to ered almost miraculous.

Rachel Billington has written a sequel to Emma' called Perfect I was glad to know, for exam- Happiness's

books

Plain tales from China



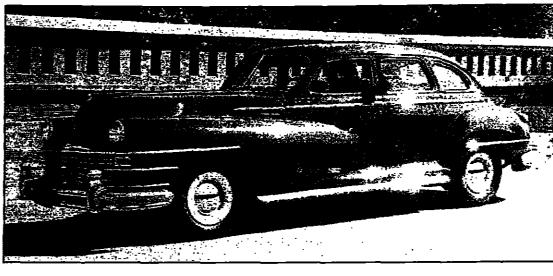






Adeline Yen Mah's people, clockwise from far left: Franklin and Jackie (1940s); Aunt Ba Ba (1930s); family group with Adeline in white dress; Father, K C Li and Lee; Niang; Father driving in the 1940s; Ye Ye the Alsatian and Susan







Amanda Mitchison finally loses patience with the ugly duckling who grew into a straight-A swan

deline Yen Mah was born "fifth Fallen Leaves: The True Story of an daughter", the lowest of the low in Chinese family hierarchy. The birth killed her mother, who died shortly afterwards of puerperal fever, thus branding the baby as unlucky. Adeline's father, whose decision not to allow a nurse to care for his. wife may have caused her death, never forgave his daughter.

Not the most propitious start to life, but the family - living in the 1930s in the Chinese port city of Tianjin - were prosperous business people and there were devoted grandparents and lovely, loving Aunt Baba to play surrogate mother. But ... enter the evil stepmother Niang, a young, beautiful Eurasian who gives all her stepchildren Western names. When the family moves to Shanghai, she takes

control, filling the house with flock wall-

paper and red velvet sofas and introduc-

ing austerity programmes for the stepchil-

dren - no pocket money, no fancy foods,

Unwanted Daughter by Adeline Yen Mah, Michael Joseph, £16.99

shaven heads for the boys, no speaking at table unless spoken to, no friends allowed in the house.

Niang's own two progeny are treated quite differently. And, of course, her rule embitters and divides. Relations between the step-siblings are invidious, with Adeline at the very bottom of the pecking order, receiving intermittent friendship from her nearest brother, James.

The only solace comes from her grandfather, and from loving Aunt Baba with whom Adeline shares a bedroom. Baba feeds the little girl preserved plums and encourages her to work hard at school, where she always seems to be top of the class.

Finally, in 1948, after a particularly vicious row with Niang, Adeline is

1,000 miles away in Tianjin, where the civil war between the communist and Kuomintang armies is now raging. Her father insists that she must learn to change her spoilt ways and realise her worth, or rather her lack of it. Grandfather and Aunt Baba are prohibited from writing to her. She receives no visits, and no letters. In the meantime, the family set up a new

life in Hong Kong. Eventually, after Tianjin has fallen to the communists, Adeline is rescued by an aunt and brought to Hong Kong. But soon she finds herself back in another boarding school where she stays for several years, again receiving no letters or visits, and almost never going home for holidays.

Academically, little Adeline continues

to shine. Eventually her father, now one of the most successful Chinese businessmen in Hong Kong, agrees to send her to England to train as a doctor. Later she despatched to a convent boarding school book traces Adeline's successive attempts

The book ends with her father and Niang dead, and Adeline discovering that her stepmother has fixed the family inheritance so that Adeline will receive nothing, Later. Adeline finds her father's original will, which includes her. She shows it to her brother James, who is most ambivalent and stands to lose from any changes. And here the narrative stops we do not find out whether he does the decent thing and helps her. So we are left dangling, a state which is appropriate considering that unfinished business is so much the stuff of unhappy families and that this autobiography is also, one suspects, an open letter to Adeline Yen Mah's siblings.

One of the main components of Adeline's misery was the reserve and formality of Chinese society. None of the chilemigrates to America, and the rest of the dren, even in adult life, was able to confide their problems to their father.

to win the affection of members of her. Even Aunt Baba and the grandfather of the narrative somehow makes the were struck dumb by convention - the grandfather left cowed and penniless. unable to ask for pocket money from Niang, and unable to confess his difficulties to his son.

A similar reserve imbues the writing of Adeline Yen Mah. There are a few moments of relief - the beautiful Chinese aphorisms that head each chapter and sprinkle the rest of the text, the descriptions of occasional moments when she talks with her grandfather or watches the boats in Hong Kong harbour from her boarding school.

But overall this is a grim, unforgettable tale, starkly told. The impression is of a solemn little rock of a girl - near, tidy, clever, but numbed inside by the experience. Perhaps it is no coincidence that Adeline went on to qualify as an anaesthetist. And just as the wealth of Adeline's father gives an edge to the deprivations undergone by the family, so the restraint

story all the more replete with blame. There is no rationalisation, no amateur psychologising, and no attempt to look at what really motivated her stepmother, or at why her father never saw what was happening and never defended his children, it is as if the author were thinking "Just the facts, just the facts ..."

Perhaps this is a good thing. Some tales are better told plain, and a more elaborate version might lose our sympathy. Even as it is, there are moments when Adeline can tire a little: with her worn clothes and her unremitting A grades, she never herself behaves dishonourably or confesses to unpalatable emotions. And I have to confess that, just as no one of true human feeling can read the death of Beth in Little Women without weeping with laughter, so the account of Adeline's beloved scrawny little per duckling being mauled by the family Alsatian made me snigger.



week books

fever - the reckless delirium that overtakes inmates as their release date nears. On Wednesday night. I caught a trace of it in Virginia Bottomley's manner as the Heritage Secretary handed Dame Muriel Spark the third David Coben Prize (worth £40,000 in all) for a lifetime's achievement in British literature. Quoting Miss Jean Brodie back at her creator, the minister defined education as "a leading out of what is already there in the pupil's soul". Now that, as grizzled veterans of the Sixties will know, sums up the core of the "progressive" child-centred teaching that Mrs Bottomley's colleagues have tried for nigh on 18 years to expunge from our classrooms. Collective responsibility? No thanks. As Miss Jean once reminded her charges, "Cleopatra knew nothing of the team spirit" - not a sentiment we'll find among the coming manifesto bromides.

n jail, they call it gate

First awarded in 1993, the biennial Cohen prize already has a splendid record of honouring the Awkward Squad. The initial winner, Sir. Vidia Naipaul, kept up his reputation as an Olympicstandard grouch with some après-moi-le-dèluge thoughts about the death of the novel. In 1995, Harold Pinter refrained from cursing US foreign policy in the atrium of Cours Bank, but he did chill the blood with some gruesome passages from Webster's plays. Pinter was paying tribute to his English master at Hackney Downs a theme pursued by Dame Muriel when she gave the £10,000 portion of the prize reserved for a beneficiary selected by the winner to arts projects at her alma mater, James Gillespie's High School in Edinburgh

It was there, 70 years ago, that the nine-year-old Muriel Camberg wrote what she calls "an intended improvement" of Browning's "Pied Piper of Hamelin".

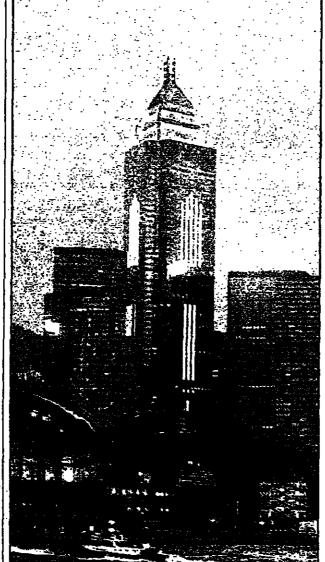


Boyd Tonkin

Browning's little rival clearly foreshadowed the fearless writer who, in a recent TV profile, scorned the "timid' authors of her age. In the 40 years since she published The Comforters, she has kept timidity at bay with one succinct and stringent fable of spiritual or social life after another. Because she has no time for English sentiment, and shuns the picturesque detail of character and place that many readers enjoy, Spark can strike the unconverted as a dry and cold contriver of intellectual puzzles. Yet it is just this theologically inclined asperity that makes her voice so precious and unique.

An impatience with Anglo-Saxon platitudes began early. In the postwar years, the penniless young writer worked for the conceited nonetities of the Poetry Society (Now, I'm glad to say, a much saner place.) There she had a memorable run-in with the batty Marie Stopes -- birthcontrol pioneer and dreadful poet. Superbly comic echoes of that period surface in her memoir Curriculum Vitae and in the 1980s novels Lottering With Intent and A

Far Cry from Kensington In her brisk, bracing tragicomedies, poky offices and bedsits (or the odd Tuscan villa) act as backdrop for a metaphysical drama that - in the words of Andrew Motion, who chaired the judging panel rransfigures the commonplace and makes what is ordinary marvellous or sinister or strange". As Ben Okri, another judge, said afterwards, "It's time to bring elegant seriousness back into fashion". Reading Spark would be a painless way to manage that - and a few ousted politicians may have some time on their hands to



Compassion fatigue

Denis MacShane asks why we excuse China's cruelty

Beating the Retreat: Hong Kong under the last Governor by Tim Heald, Sinclair-Stevenson, £20 Hong Kong Goes Back edited by Judith Vidal-Hall and Yang Lian. Index on Censorship, £7.99

hen will the world wake up about China? The vileness and brutal-ity of apartheid South Africa. Pinochet's Chile or Brezhnev's Soviet Union called into being protests, boycotts. demonstrations and an engagement from the intellectual classes, as well as from trade unions and churches, that rattled the cages of those shop-soiled tyrannies.

Yet every 20th-century evil carried out in the name of ideology or state is taking place daily in China. The abuses happen on a scale that often surpasses the crimes against human rights which mobilised the Pinters and Pilgers against rightist regimes, or the Rees-Moggs and Paul Johnsons against European communism.

But, on China, there is not a cheen. Wei Jingsheng, who has been in and out of prison since he first called for the "fifth freedom" of democracy in the late 1970s, has the moral stature and style of a Mandela or a Sakharov. Yet he is unknown in Britain. There is an ethical vacuum in our consideration of China. The usual excuse is that there is too much money to be made: the real reason is that at the end of the 20th century we suffer from the malady of human rights fatigue. Western liberals, having seen off fascism and communism, have become complacent.

All honour then to Index on Censorship, this year celebrating 25 years of reporting on threats to free expression, for a readable collection of articles on the lack of freedom in China and Hong Kong. In addition to withering analyses by the admirable John Gittings and Jonathan Mirsky, the pieces by Chinese writers.

journalists and activists bury the lie that the Chinese are not interested in the core freedoms that define democracy.

Sadly, the handing back of Hong Kong in July will mark the end of the island's role as an independent source of information on China and, more broadly, on Asia. The handling of the transfer has been one of the most shaming chapters in the long march of Conservative rule since 1979. Margaret Thatcher bungled her talks with Deng Xiaoping: thereafter. Whitehall treated Hong Kong as a profit centre until John Major was presented with the problem of what to do with the defeated MP Chris Patten five years ago. Patten is a humane, cultured one-

nation Tory. Brought up in the security of suburban Ealing in the 1950s, he left Oxford well before the intellectual revolts that turned some to the left, but many more into the angry anti-socialists who swept Mrs Thatcher to glory. The party that Patten joined - of Heath, McLeod. Butler and Boyle - was turned into a home fit for David Evans and John Redwood. By then, Patten had made the Faustian pact of all ambitious politicians. At the start of the 1990s, this fastidious, witty man was reduced to grunting about Porkies and pretending he had something in common with Brian Mawhinney.

Hong Kong needed political leadership to prepare its people for rule by Beijing. But Patten was not the right person and Major, with his unerring lack of judgement, has sacrificed his friend's career in the belief he was doing him a favour. The problem was not that Patten set

out to antagonise the Chinese - he didn't - but that he was not allowed to do anything for the people of Hong Kong save give them their first and last essay in voting for an assembly. This was a symbolic two-fingered democratic salute up the nasal cavity of Deng's dictatorship, but as relevant to real politics as the poll tax.

Of incomparably greater use would have been the creation of the building blocks of civil society - by encouraging press freedom or workers' organisation. and by enshrining human rights in law. But Patten's masters in London were not interested in the politics of freedom. What was denied by Major in Britain could not be offered by Patten in Hong Kong.

Tim Heald's artlessly written account of his visits to Hong Kong as a guest of his old Balliol friend, Chris Patten, is a much better book than its rambling start suggests. In explaining what makes Patten tick, the more official biographics will not do a better job. Heald has written not just an elegy in the last graveyard of British colonialism, but an anthem of farewell to his and Patten's England - a place of minor public schools. Öxbridge, Denis Compton and mess dinners.

Patten, observes Heald, never bothered to get to grips with the Chinese. Instead, the last Governor spent his spare hours in Hong Kong learning French. It is not Britain that says goodbye to Hong Kong on 30 June. It is China and Asia that say adieu to England. Britain's future lies in making a success of Europe, not quick

Patten understands this. Can he persuade his party, or has the Tory generation that he. Heald and John Major represent outlived its purpose, at home and abroad?

They make a wilderness and call it peace

As his title shows, Graham Harvey is not afraid to use a sensational phrase. Within his first few paragraphs he refers to the "living garment" of the countryside, a metaphor coined by W H Hudson to describe the flow-ers covering chalk grassland, and declares that it is turning into a shroud. This impassioned book demonstrates that such language, far from being histrionic, simply meets the case. Our countryside is indeed being killed, and by the

Hong Kong swan song

very people who are charged with its care. What makes Harvey's book valuable is the intensity of his feeling. He grieves the wanton extinction of our "national treasure" - the mixedfarm structure of the prewar years - and fervently resents the alliance of politicians, civil servants and landowners who have grown rich on its bones.

Harvey is an angry man, and his anger allows him persuasively to restate a case that has become wearisome in its familiarity. It seems speaks of "silent fields".

Fraser Harrison curses the land lobby

The Killing of the Countryside by Graham Harvey, Cape, £16.99

scarcely credible that we have now been deprived of 97 per cent of our meadowland. And who can believe that after all the pleas on their behalf, hedgerows are still being lost or, rather, plundered at the rate of 10,000 miles per year? The populations of our so-called common songbirds are falling at a desperate rate. The tree sparrow's numbers have dropped by 89 per cent in the past 25 years, and the skylark's by 58 per cent. As we in Suffolk can testify, Harvey does not exaggerate when he

His chief concern is to show how the countryside is being killed by the subsidy system, which currently costs you and me £10bn a year. Not only are we helping to enrich the already rich, we are paying twice - once with our taxes, and again by surrendering our countryside to poison or plough. And we pay again when we buy food that s nutritionally void and contaminated with the

chemicals that fuel the agribusiness machine. If I have a criticism of Harvey's splendid tirade, it is that he does not analyse in sufficient detail the formidable lobby that keeps the gravy pouring onto the plates of the landowning class. Land and political power turn out to be branches of the same indestructible plant.

Harvey points out that landowners, not country inhabitants, dictate the shape of the landscape. Whitehall and the agricultural industry work together to reshape the countryside, a symbiosis of public service and private capital that Graham Harvey is interviewed on page 16

leaves the suckered public to pay the bill. He says that country people, a third of the population, "live on the periphery like temporary expatriates in some foreign land". Temporary? When, then, may we go home." Not in the foreseeable future. Landowners will not accept that, while the country may be their property, the landscape belongs to all of us.

Harvey is the agricultural story editor of The Archers - for many listeners an authentic echoof country life. It is therefore a shame, the programme does not contain a representative of the villainies denounced here. Brian Aldridge and Simon Pemberton come close to fitting the bill, but we do not hear about the destructive consequences of their methods. Larks still sing in Ambridge but, if the countryside really is being killed. Ambridge too must suffer.

Paperbacks ___



By Helen Stevenson

Adventures in Capitalism by Toby Litt (Minerva, £6.99) Toby Litt combines a rumbustious flair for comedy with an ability to write about the world in a knowing postmodern shorthand. All these 18 stories are richly textured with brand names and the kind of hip vernacular that both describes and disfigures the contemporary world. Litt has a way of dignifying wackiness without ever tipping over into the surreal. You end up feeling as if you've downed 18 hot shots of differently flavoured, lethal vodka, My favourite is "Mr Kipling", a eulogy to the cake maker, in which the only thing that stands between exceedingly good and perfection is the possibility of an inclination towards Rome, betrayed by "the occasional overuse of cinnamon in his mince pies".

Not Entitled by Frank Kermode (Flamingo, £6,99) "Between these origins and that ending is where the weather is, fair or foul: the climate of a life. Not as some have said, a dream, but a climate, a microclimate, le temps qu'il fait." You do not get the impression, on reading this autobiography, that the sun ever quite came out for Frank Kermode. He inclines towards a weary acceptance of a life that has been nobody else's fault. This is surprising in one who. in his critical writings at least, has always seemed to he good at chasing away clouds - of bigotry, suspicion, muddle. He writes about his poor childhood on the Isle of Man, his wartime

career in the navy, his long vears as an academic with grace and honesty, but reports a feeling of having always been "where one is not entitled to be". A book full of odd, signposted omissions, unsatisfactory only in its brevity and mild

An Italian Education by Tim Parks (Minerva, £6.99) This is novelist Tim Parks's second contribution to that potentially exasperating genre of books by English people who have made their lives in a Mediterranean country. He tries to slip in a few provisos, but you feel the hardships of his existence could be counted on the toes of his delightful half-ltalian offspring. Parks's friendly tone, his endearing habit of trying to be wry and play down the pleasure of it all. saves him from the worst pitfalls of Mayle-ism.

The Shadow Man by Mary Gordon (Bloomsbury, £7) This riveting investigative memoir of Mary Gordon's Jewish father, an American of Polish origin who converted to Catholicism. bears a strangely ambiguous title. Her beloved father is later discovered to have been a flagrant anti-Semite. inept writer and mythomaniac. But it is not so much he who has east the shadow as Gordon herself. If successful analysis means the transformation of ghosts into ancestors, this work may not have fulfilled its purpose. David Gordon's ghost is there to the last page, warming and chilling, plaguing and soothing.



Salvador Dali outside his villa in Spain in 1951, photographed by Daniel Farson

Soldiers, sailors and airheads

There's more to life than dropped names, says Michael Arditti

n his early days at Picture Post. Daniel Farson photographed Edith Evans as Lady Bracknell. This breathless account of the myriad people, places and careers (among them critic, biographer, TV reporter, pub owner and mer-chant seaman) he has packed into his 70 years would prompt that forbidding character's most reproving reference to "a life crowded with incident", even as her creator was greeting a fellow-diner at the nanthers' feast.

In the art of being in the right place at the right time, Farson is a Michelangelo. As the son of a celebrated American journalist, he had an early brush with fame and infamy when Gandhi visited his London home and Hitler patted his head in Munich. Evacuated to Chicago in 1940, he was taken by Somerset Maugham to spend a weekend with his lover's lover: walking into the French pub in Soho, he was instantly befriended by John Deakin and ing down the Volga and suspected of spying during the coup against Gorbachev.

down Westminster corridors by Tom even such a privileged eye can fail - as nating subjects in front of his lens.

Never a Normal Man by Daniel Farson, HarperCollins, £25

Driberg; as an undergraduate editor, he commissioned Kenneth Tynan. He discussed film-making with Orson Welles in Paris, the crucifixion with Dali in Spain and was treated to a very laboured pun on his "behind" by Noel Coward.

Politicians too came within his orbit. Lady Thatcher prodded his chest to illustrate her credo "See, see, see; learn, learn, learn", while his association with Jeremy Thorpe almost led to his arrest in the Norman Scott case. He flitted from East End low-life (the Krays provided him with "Mad Teddy" Smith as a minder) to Holhwood high life (organising Judy Garland's birthday party). And that is not to mention Colin Wilson, Caitlin Thomas, Joan Lit-

tlewood, old Aunty Diana Cooper and all. His most sustained claim to fame is as denizen of Soho and a modern Vasari Freud to Gilbert and George and Damien He drops names at a rate which would was with Francis Bacon. Much of what he a series of vivid snapshots, devoid of any not disgrace Dempster's diary. As a par- writes on Bocon has appeared elsewhere, attempt to set them in a broader context.

when he congratulated David Sainsbury on a Bacon portrait of his father, only to be informed, stiffly, that it was his mother.

There is not much evidence that his current retirement in Devon has left any time. for reflection. On the contrary: despite the initial promise that, because he has no family to embarrass, he is discarding reticence, he engages in little introspection and less self-revelation. He is happy to discuss Francis Bacon's masochism but - apart from revealing that he belonged to a world where AC/DC meant "he liked soldiers and sailors" - he tells us very little about his own affairs. It's a strange lacuna given a concluding admission that sexuality has ruled his life. Likewise, he discusses his father's alcoholism, while merely reporting his own penchant for two or three bottles

Ultimately, both the strength and weakness of these memoirs rests in the fact that | breakdown of a 20-year rela-Farson is, primarily, a photographer: a pro- | tionship, and is unconvincshorthand for the moral vacuum at the Hirst. His closest association, however, heart of great events. What he provides is liamentary correspondent, he was chased although it is salutary to discover that The blessing is that he has had such fasci-

Ewe are my heart's desire

Carol Birch prefers country by-ways to the streets of Dublin

In the Beginning by Catherine Dunne, Cape, £9.99 One Day as a Tiger by Anne Haverty, Chatto, £9.99

othing sums up the schizophrenia of modern life like contemporary Ireland, where urban sophisticates have delighted in puncturing time-honoured shibboleths, while among the boreens and candy-coloured village streets the old ways persist. Two first novels from lrish women, one urban, one rural, aptly illustrate this. On the strength of Cather-

ine Dunne's novel, In The Beginning, it seems that the old certainties have been jettisoned in favour of a resolute blandness. It tells the story of Rose, perfect housewife and mother of three, whose husband walks out after 20 years of marriage. Rose picks herself up, dusts herself down and discovers beneath her of strength and independence that within a year she has turned tragedy into triumph, scaling heights of self-respect she could never have dreamed of in marriage.

It is a simple, undemanding book with a plucky heroine and a message of hope, rocking no boats and adhering to standard truisms of the British and American feminist novel of 20 or so years ago. Divorce is a liberation for women and, in the long run, is better for children than life with two unhappy parents. Ben, the husband, is no loss, being despicable and boring and prone to make a mess in the kitchen. Women friends are strong and dependable, PMT is a window onto reality that men don't understand. Catherine Donne is good

on the minutiae of domestic life and the sense of panic faced by women desperately trying to earn a living and keep a family fed and stable, but this is a simplification of the anguish that attends the catches convincingly the brisk both. In One Day As A Tiger, modernity and fashionable she has created a haunting, cynicism of Dublin life.

It is from just this that Marty, here of Anne Haverty's One Day As A Tiger, flees back to the family farm in Tipperary, relinquishing a promising academic career at Trinity College. Here in the fields of his happy childhood, he falls into the role of layabout younger brother to solid sheep farmer Pierce, a truly good character portrayed without awe or sentiment. Hopelessly and shame-fully in love with Pierce's young wife, Etti, Marty also becomes fixated with a lamb called Missy, runt of a herd of sheep experimentally doctored with human genes. Convinced that she has rejected her ovine nature, he takes the pitiful creature into his house and develops a bizarre relationship with her, a projection of his desperate need for love.

This relationship is taken totally seriously by the writer but not by the local community. When Missy becomes the means whereby Em responds to Marty, the stage is set for a

tragedy of classic proportions. On one level this is a simple story, plainly yet poetically told; on another it's a complex web of humour and pain. It is about the cruelties inflicted on animals by sentimental anthropomorphism, as the beloved lamb becomes whatever is projected onto it. It is also the best observation of modern tural Ireland I have yet to read. Haverty's depiction of "the country way" seeks not to grind an axe, to revere, romanticise or vilify, but simply to behold. Thus, rural life is a possible route to stultification and madness, but it also has beauty and dignity and its roots reach into mythology.

There seems to be a tendency for some Irish women writers to feel that they must consciously make a statement on the subject of "Women in Ireland". Catherine Dunne is in this mode, concerned thereby to point out hypocrisy and emphasise a rot in the traditions. Anne Haverty has a more universal view. She sees the rot but has a clearer view ingly reassuring about the of what's left of the fabric. She effects on children. Still, the cares as much about men as woman finds herself, or at women, the old and the new, least makes a start, and it and sees the complexity of subtle and beautiful book.

Audiobooks



Ralph Fiennes's sinewy voice reading Michael Ondaatje's The English Patient (Macmillan, 4hrs. £8.99) is an attractive supplement to his muchpraised performance in the

film of the book, and though purists will resent any abridgement, this one is more generous than most. A galaxy of super-star readers are allied with bargain basement value in a joint venture by Hodder Headline and W H Smith. The first 15 titles in their £6.99 Classic Collection sets include Julie Christie matched to Far From the Madding Crowd, Joanna Lumley to Persuasion and Kate Winslet to Sense and Sensibility

Christina Hardyment

NEXT WEEK IN

* THE INDEPENDENT

LILY WONG

The Hong Kong cartoon strip that China hated is back. The death of Lily Wong caused worldwide headlines now, she takes her final bow for the last 100 days before the handover



THURSDAY

Our unbeatable section for everyone who educates, is being educated or cares

MONDAY

EDUCATION+ MEDIA+ NETWORK+

Our 32-page section that takes on everything the press, television and advertisers throw at us. And

asks why

TUESDAY

Cutting edge know-how on computers and iT



All together now

Anthony Giddens challenges the prophets of doom

Connectly by Geoff Mulgan, Chatto & Windus, £16.99

here is a popular view of society at the moment which runs something like this: 30 or 40 years ago, social life was a predictable and ordered affair. Families by and large held together and children had a stable social environment. People took pride in their local communities and there was a general sense of civic culture. The welfare state provided

for the needy or those in trouble. Today, so this view runs, much of this is in tatters. We live in a world of increas-There are different ideas about how this situation has come to pass, but the most common one blames excessive individualism. Put bluntly, we have accumulated too many rights and we recognise too few obligations. Many people, including many children, have lost a sense of right and wrong. For anyone who takes such a view, there is an obvious remedy. We should reintroduce a firm social morality, social

discipline and punishment. Geoff Mulgan's new book seeks to put something quite different in place of the hypothesis of social and moral decay. We don't live in a society with a one-way ticket to disintegration. Almost the opposite; we are entering a new age of interdepen-dence and co-operation, an age of "con-nexity" - a word which Mulgan has plucked from old English. What Mulgan calls connexity, others term globalisation. The arrival of a cosmopolitan society

increasingly links us all to one another. Such interdependence has positive and negative aspects. Instantaneous electronic communication allow friends who rarely see each other to keep in touch from far corners of the world. On the other hand, we all face common ecological problems, from which no one on the face of the earth can escape. The key question is, can we foster the positive aspects of globalisation while containing the damage it produces? Put more specifically, how can we reconcile individual freedom with due recognition of the need for social collaboration?

Mulgan attempts a serious response to the moral-authority lobby. We should recognise, he accepts, that freedom has

poorer regions of the world - the most difficult problems are not about material shortages but about what the author terms "disorders of freedom". The freedom to travel to work alone in a private car, for example, leads to traffic congestion, urban decay and air pollution. In an age of interdependence, the freedom of individuals may rebound upon others and

Since many of the connections which now bind us are new, we can't deal with them by reverting to traditional forms of is in tatters. We live in a world or increas-ing fragmentation, where the family is under threat, children are at risk and the fabric of communal life is unravelling, we are to balance freedom and interdependence. But most of our political ideas have come down from an altogether different era than the one we now confront.

Mulgan identifies two ways forward. One is educational - the cultivation of a mentality of partnership or co-operation.

Rather than decline, the dominant trend is one of moral progress 7

We should ask how far the family, firms. schools or universities promote mature and capable citizens. At the moment, too many such groups simply produce attitudes of dependence - as the welfare state, to some degree, has done. Dependence is the contrary of interdependence - the chief reason why a return to tradi-

tional authority is impossible. The second factor is more structural. We need to revive the idea of public life, swamped for the moment by the high tide of free-market philosophy. Mulgan does not accept that the advent of the global age signals the end of politics. But public life can t be reconstructed merely by appealing to older models of the nation. We have to reconcile local and global interdependence. A variety of means could allow political reform to go along with the creation

of a more confident and involved citizenty. Here Mulgan mentions electronic voting, citizens' juries and other "deliber-

its pathologies. In the advanced ative groups, Refreshingly, he combats the economies — in stark contrast to the conventional view that government can do conventional view that government can do little to foster civic solidarity. City planning, for example, can encourage public spaces which are safe, accessible and promote sociability. Here, ecological concerns should be integrated with the drive to a renewed sense of civic involvement.

Mulgan borrows a phrase of the anthropologist Gregory Bateson, "ecology of mind". Ecological orders in nature are systems of interdependence between plants, animals and the physical environment. As in the physical world, we need to show how different ways of life can coexist. Consider the debate about family values. The role of government is not to defend the so-called traditional family, but to encourage the mentalities which make different forms of family life work and also allow their members to develop wider civic bonds.

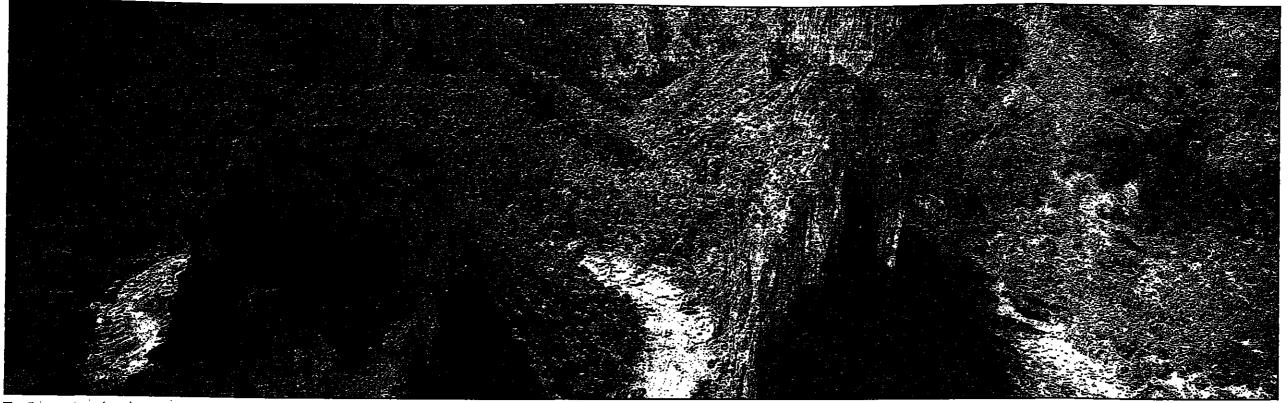
All this must appear mere pie in the sky to those who feel that moral life has already more or less disintegrated. Mulgan has an answer for them. Rather than decline, he says, the dominant trend is one of moral progress. Human rights are becoming more firmly embedded in international law and many new moral concerns have surfaced, such as those to do with the plight of animals or with environmental decay. The spread of communications enlarges the scope of moral language and allows moral issues to be openly debated rather than simply sanctified by tradition. "Connexity", in Mulgan's words, "makes the universal potential of morality practical for the

first time." I have a good deal of sympathy with the ideas that Mulgan develops. His book has many virtues, not least the stand he takes against the prophets of moral despair, I think he is right to suggest that we are entering an age whose basic characteristics we as yet only partly understand and which is poorly conceptualised as the "information era".

Yet in the end, I'm not sure that the concept of "connexity" is much better. Interesting though Mulgan's arguments are, they could have been given a harder edge than one finds here. Much of his discussion is constituted in the control of the discussion is constituted in the control of the control o cussion is superficial, with too many difficulties skated over too easily. I don't think that those who hold different views will find themselves convinced.

travel & outdoors

Driving from Istanbul to London First of the spring and summer snow Country special with Jake



The Copper Canyon, one of the biggest in the world, is crossed by the El Pacifico railway with its 73 tunnels and 28 bridges

Rivers deep, mountains high

Richard Holledge journeys along Mexico's Copper Canyon by bus, Chevy and rail

hectically at their Heidi, Scott and Ezra clap along, sing along and as the margaritas three for the price of one - take stand on our balconies in silent awe. their hold, they dance along. We know their names because these are on ID badges stuck to their sensiwindbreakers. In the bar, Harvey and Earl are watching CNN and trying to whip up some interest in the result of the US election.

Blancas, please." almost any hotel colonised by the exaggerated by the relative glamour great American tourist trail any- of the mighty blue train which here in the world. Here we eat steak with baked potatoes instead of pollo a mole - chicken in a bittersweet chocolate sauce. Tortillas? Please. The morning's scrambled eggs come American-style, without the challenging piquancy of huevos a Mexicano.

But by dawn we know that this is no ordinary stopover. The first lightening of the day outlines the rim of the mighty canyon that stretches thousands of metres down and across. As the sun pops over the rim it reveals the vastness of the scene. From the hotel, an eyrie built on the rim of a carryon 2,500 metres above sea level, we can see, way below us, a deep, dry river-bed edged by forest and small fields of maize, and canyon upon canyon stretching away into the dawn pink-

e presume your

Vitem headed Orleans to

Oxford' was 'ghosted' for

you by one of those Transport ministers who

Last week's alphabetical

invasion of France was all

my own work, but attracted

a good helping of heckling

from readers such as Terry

under-Wychwood, who

suggestion that students

took issue with the

from motorways for

continues:

and Jenny Eaton of Milton-

could hitch from Oxford to

Orleans for £0. Their letter

"Pedestrians are bonned

obvious reasons, so hitching

not perhaps the best advice.

along the M40 and M25 is

article on the British

never use public transport."

appy hour in the darting progress from one tree to Posada Mirador. another, the eagles recommence An impromptu trio their steady soaring arcs; in the disof waiters strum tance a donkey brays.

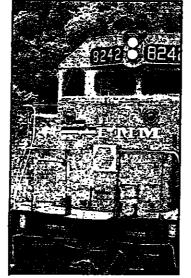
It's a sight that led us to get up guitars. Reuben, early - those of us who had the strength, after the assault on the margaritas the night before - and

The hotel is at the half-way point of one of the great combinations of nature and engineering in the ble travellers' simulated cotton world. The Copper Canyon railway trip takes 13 hours (at least) and stretches from the sweaty Pacific coast town of Los Mochis to the industrial city of Chihuahua, set high on the plain in flat, hot farm-land. In between, 73 tunnels, 28 bridges and a gaggle of neglected It could be almost anywhere, little villages whose poverty seems clanks and grinds into their perfunctory stations carrying a cargo of Reubens, Heidis, Scotts and Ezras. Many make the trip in one go, but it is best to get on and off the train at various points. One ticket will cover the journey.

The train to the coast starts at 7.30 each morning in Chihuahua. I decided to skip the overnight and beaded straight from the airport to the massive hangar of a bus station on the outskirts of the city. The first half of the great El Pacifico railway trip began by bus.

The air-conditioned bus hammers over the plain, often parallel with the line, with romantic laments blasting from the radio; it winds into the sierra and arrives five hours later in Creel.

No problem with accommodaness. The hummingbirds start their tion here. A lad attaches himself to



me as I get off the bus and guides me over the railway line, clambering nimbly over the wagons laden improbably with Recreation Vehicles (more American colonisation) to the small, backpackers' lodge of San Margaritas. It is as if time had stood still from my hitching days many years ago. A disparate crew of nationalities, communicating in varying degrees of broken English, radiating an air of competitive camaraderie over who has been furthest for the least. The only difference between now and those longlost hippy days is that the peripatetic youth of San Margaritas look clean and sin-free, and stride out winsomely under stateof-the-art rucksacks.

Creel is virtually a one-street town, straggling dustily along the railway line. It has a small square with an optimistic bandstand, a church whose morning bells act as an alarm clock by clanging out at the same time as dawn's punctual 7.20 arrival, and a little shop selling knick-knacks for the local Catholic mission. The place is an improbable meeting of Indians and tourists. The Indians, the Taramhumara, are increasingly aware of their own commercial worth. They wander into town from the surrounding hills, or come on the three-days-a-week bus from valleyfloor, subtropical villages such as Batopilas. The men still wear curious, skirt-like garments round their nether regions and the women give the impression that their ancient

traditions have held firm since the can buy a tequila. It must be the tribe fled to the sierra from the Spanish. Now the valleys and their network of small hotels are increasingly filled with American package holidaymakers, who are wellbehaved and credulous in that way of American tourists, but none the

Not that this is high-profile tourist country. The mainstay of local wealth is logging, and judging by the neat wooden houses in the countryside and the steady proces-sion of Chevy FWD and Dodge Rams that four-wheel-drive their way up and down the street every evening in a latter-day version of "Mexican Graffiti", tourism is likely to remain an adjunct.

its poignant display of plastic flowers and scattering of marigold leaves left from the previous week's Dia de la Muerte, when all Mexico flocks to cemeteries to honour the dead. You find yourself in a valley with smallholdings, aggressive dogs, a few browsing horses, the constant fleeting shadow of the floating eagles, rustling maize, and an ancient tractor scything through the

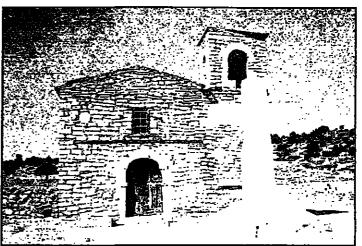
In fact, the influence of tourism lies only with a few undemanding attempts by local drivers to inveigle you on trips and a few halfhearted attempts by children to sell some wood carvings. The main drag has a few simple cafés - try Veronica's for the best breakfasts and Hernandez for a thin, red pork chop with salsa - and is so unspoilt that there is only one bar where you

influence of the Alcoholics Anonymous group, which advertises itself discreetly on the outskirts of town.

One of the taxi-drivers finally prevailed on me to take a trip; it was the sign on the side of his Chevy - "English Speaks" - that won me over. He persuaded me not to wait for the train - bound to be late, anyway - so I crowded into the Chevy with a trio of Mexicans from Chicago and he whizzed us to the next station on the line. Divisadero. We detoured for a mighty view over the Rio Oteros via a cleared stretch of forest, "It used to be a landingstrip," he said. "Marijuana. Police come

Am I ever going to get on the It is easy to get a glimpse of the train? It is meant to reach the half-Indian lifestyle. Walk to the end of way point at Divisadero by 1.45pm. the village, past the cemetery with. The view is so powerful here that the train stops for 15 minutes to allow travellers to pick their way cious guards order people into through a gaggle of Indians selling seats where there are broken grass-made baskets and more grass-made baskets and marvel at the view, cameras clicking. A few minutes and another stop, the Posado Barranco. The three girls stoically weaving grass baskets hardly look up at the tourists waiting for the train. Older women protect their selection of copper bits and pieces with similar scant regard for Elmer, with his baseball cap proudly displaying "Retire" on the front, or Anthea, eager to return to the comfort of her RV in Baja California, clutching a vast bin-liner of woven baskets, or Abigail, a child of the Sixties, absently watching her offspring wander off

down the line. The train arrives, clunking,



Indian lifestyle: a church near Creel PROTOGRAPH RICHARD HOLLEDGE

blocking the view. We had to sit where we were told, despite the fact that the train was less than half full.

And since all well-prepared travellers know that the best view on this particular journey is on the left as you head west, the conflict for a decent seat was intense. It took at least 10 minutes, with rows with officials of escalating degrees of seniority, gold braid and pomposity, to strike a deal.

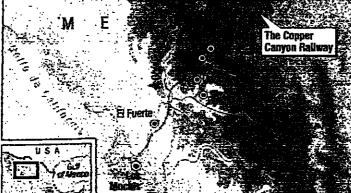
It is an extraordinary trip. In a succession of loops, tunnels and cliff edges, the train sinks deeper into the canyon, passing a few smallholdings, occasional maize Pacific. fields and a handful of villages. Increasing time is spent on the platform between the carriages. watching the train snaking away in front and behind. As it drops slowly and circuitously toward the sea, the

groaning and whistling alongside climate warms up, leaving the edges and pine forests behind. Now the trackside is covered with blinds, or have the carriage side - cacti shaped like pan pipes, or like giant, alien squid clinging on to the cliff sides.

As dusk falls the train sidles out of the great gorges with their tops now touched by the setting sun, and reaches the River Chnipas. It stretches wide and shining black in the gathering gloom. The train groans over the river on a narrow bridge, only to stop at a disturbing height. Has it broken down or is it simply stopping for us to admire the view? Casting aside the terror of vertigo, we peer straight down to the river below and off into the distance as it glides toward the

The train gives a blast and gathers speed. Hundreds of feet below. half submerged by the river; the twisted reamins of two freight wagons. Maybe the bridge was as perilous as it seemed, after all.





You can in the Canyon

The trip: The Chihuahua al Pacifico train departs every morning from each end of the line - Los Mochis in the west, Chihuahua in the east, with a one-way fare of about £25. You should buy the ticket the day before travel, though it can be bought on the train.

To Mexico City: flights with Aero Mexico from Charles de Gaulle, Paris, from £343 - Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, British Air-ways, £459 - Monday, Thursday,

Saturday, direct.

To Chihuahua: £81 one-way with Aero Mexico. Flights also to Los Mochis for the west-east trip.

Tours, agents: Journey Latin America offers bespoke tours of the area. It can arrange flights with Lufthansa (from Frankfurt)

South American Experience (0171-976 5511) offers £410 on Iberia via Madrid.

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Now for the guide to dissent ...

Simon Calder Must Try Harder. Perhaps a bursary from your paper to

found a Chair in Student A neat idea, and if it ever happens then a set book should be the Huch-hiker's Manual: Britain. It warns:

"Trying to hitch around the

hitchhiker's

M25 is fraught with problems due to the number of all-motorway junctions."

A motorway is also the subject of a letter from Harry Gibson of Bury. I suggested that a good way to dodge tolls on the autoroutes on a journey from Newcastle to Nancy was to sneak through Belgium and Luxembourg. "Tolk begin only at the

French border." I concluded, But Mr Gibson motorway which runs from Luxembourg around Metz to Nancy is in fact toll-

Patrick Bowes writes

from Plymouth with

amplification: "What is not very clear to the British who are trying to get away to France cheaply and without fuss are the remarkable offers run by SNCF and Eurostar which enable you to do Waterloo-Lyon for £99 return, or Avignon, Marscille or Nice for £109 return. Just as you say that Luton is the new aviation gateway to Europe, well, Lille is the point you step off your

to south-west France, the Riviera or even the Alps without the worry of changing trains in Paris." Picture the scene:

Birmingham International

platform four at

station on Thursday

to a high-speed TGV train

afternoon, packed with delegates departing from the British Travel Trade Having been briefed at the Virgin stand about how Richard Branson's company would revitalise rail travel, everyone waits eagerly for the Virgin Cross Country train to the south, due at 3.16pm. At the appointed moment it appears - but presents a

passenger asks one of the station staff if that was indeed her train, he replies with aplomb: "Yes didn't you manage to catch it? The train finally comes to

throng by hurtling through

at 100mph. When one

a halt some distance beyond the station. The next service is not for an hour, more to the point, the train is full of people hoping to catch planes from Birmingham's airport So eventually the train is reversed, causing miscellaneous mayhem for other services. As he waits for the errant train to back up, one disgruntled delegate mutters "Hope this doesn't happen to

Eurostar train and step on

challenge to the assembled Branson's planes.

3 @33 C ●

- 17 - 44

From Istanbul by 'people bus'

What's it like to cross Europe by car? And is it cheaper than flying? Hugh Pope found out, the hard way

erhaps I just wanted to know if it was feasible. Or because taking an aeroplane year after year seemed too easy, and, frankly, boring. A few hours flight high over the enticing snow-capped mountains and green plains of Europe and I was back in

the same traffic jam out of Heathrow. What would it be like, I wondered, to drive from one end of Europe to the other? Was this not why we had bought a big, air-conditioned American "people mover", doubtless itching for the open road after a year of school and super-market runs? And how easy the map made it look! A sweeping run from Istanbut, where I work, across the north of Greece to the Adriatic port of Igoumenitsa, our jumping-off point for Italy's autostradas heading north and home.

The last ferry from there, the agent said, would leave at 11.30pm. It occurred to us that it might be easier to turn back, But our honour was engaged. We had to do it. It was just unfortunate that we celchrated the decision by taking a wrong turn out of Kavala, giving ourselves an extra hour along a lonely mountain road,



But here we were, 11 hours and 800km (500 miles) out of Istanbul, hitting one of the ugly city of Thessaloniki's revolving rush hours. There were nine hours left to reach Igoumenitsa.

Soon afterwards we struck east into real mountains. For the last 100 miles to loaninitialists. For the last 100 miles to toannia we twisted up to a 1,700-metre (5,600ft) pass which amply showed why the Ottoman governors of the province often ended up as independent kinglets.

The road seemed to be following the line of the old donkey track, but it was also

line of the old donkey track, but it was also beautifully cambered. Our big car zipped between mist-bound hairpin bends, past marble blocks that had tumbled off on to the edge of ravines. For me, it was an led wife kept her own counsel.

was still loading in the harbour, alone and brightly lit against the black sea.

I pulled up at the harbour entrance, the sea but further to the south of Italy.

Our ferry eventually steamed in late at 3.30am. It had no air-conditioning and few passengers, and one of its engines broke down in mid-Adriatic, forcing us to

We eased into the pretty port of Brindisi at 3.30pm. After the Greek roadworks, the Italian autostrada was beautiful, straight as the seam of a stocking up from the heel of Italy, the laurel bushes in the dividing strip bursting with pink and white blooms, the succession of high bridges and deep tunnels a breathtaking

We were far behind schedule, but our spirits could not help rising in the Italian autostrada cafés. Each was as friendly as the next, with chatty espresso bars and

exhilarating experience. My white-knuck-With my watch showing 10.10pm, we careened around the mountain lake and the outskirts of Ioannina. There was still hope of reaching the ferry in a last plunge through more mountains to the port of Igoumenitsa. By a miracle, we survived and made it on the dot of 11.30. The ferry

tyres hot and fragrant, 17 hours and 1300km (810 miles) out of Istanbul. I was sent back. "You have to buy a ticket." the customs men not unreasonably advised us. In my haste I then spent £200 on a cabin in the wrong ferry, and (through lack of choice) to the wrong port, not con-venient Ancona, but Brindisi. closer by

proceed at walking speed.

"Oh, don't worry," the pretty Anglo-Greek purser airily said. "We heard on the radio that the gas tank of another ferry blew up today, and of course you know about the one that ran aground three days ago. During the season, they don't stop for repairs, you know."

tribute to long-forgotten engineers.

once ran a similarly extortionate system.

Low quay: Corfu is a staging post en route to the Italian port of Brindisi, where rustic charm gives way to bi-tech, high-speed autostradas hours from Brindisi and 57 hours from ven for 40 hours (not counting sleeping

The Italians also drive fast, which ening countryside of eastern France. Sitting at the little town square café in Poli-

suited us. Our need to beat the clock forced us to hurtle through the night, and I found I much preferred driving the motorway at night. Traffic evaporates and the illusion of movement is much greater, since you see only close speeding lights, not the unchanging countryside mocking your slow progress from a distance. By 4.30am, 13 hours out

of Brindisi. 47 hours out of Istanbul, and £40 out of pocket to the autostrada system, we reached the Mont Blanc tunnel. A credit card swipe relieved us of £25 more for the pleasure of driving through

Geneva, the Swiss helped themselves to £25 for a 10-minute short cut through their country. The fine castles that still guard each bend through Aosta-Chamonix valleys up to Mont Blanc doubtless

For a while it all seemed worth it as we ed along the lovely roads and ay

gnac, to the south west of Lyons, I mocked the vapour trails of the jets overhead. But I will also remember how much our coffees and croissants set us back when, next time, I am looking down from an aircraft eating my free breakfast.

Seen from the autoroute, the country-

The road seemed to be following the

line of an old donkey track ... 7 it. Then, as dawn broke over Lake side turned flat, dry and dull as we headed north of Dijon and through the

Champagne country, reaching a series of road signs that read like a history of the First World War. It was with considerable relief that we confronted the question of how we should

cross the Channel when we reached

10 hours from Mont

Istanbul. How much would it cost to take Le Shuttle through the Channel tunnel? "£64.95," said the man in the ticket booth. "Is that your cheapest?" I asked. "Well, if you take the day return, it's £59," the man answered.

ebrate, but had to take the only fare on offer: Le Burger King.
Then came England. A

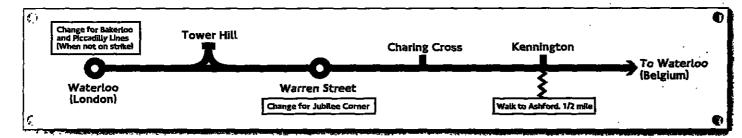
motorway of cheap, con-crete slabs, and shabbylooking small fields, made the place seem the most primitive we had seen since somewhere back in Greece - even the Turkish motorway was better - and the muddled scenes around a long M25 roadworks completed the impression that we were back on the margins of Europe.

and eating time) over 3,880 kilometres (2,425 miles) from Istanbul, burnt 373 litres of petrol and in a total of 60 hours' travel had spent £600 - almost exactly the cost of a family's return air fares.

Now that it is over, a sense of pride and Le Shuttle is so quick and frequent that achievement has crept in, and I also have almost all its passengers felt obliged to a hard-earned new sense for the geogralinger for hours in a nearby: phy of Europe, and an admiration for a shopping centre. We tried to new political unity that meant our pass-have a French meal to cel-ports were only glanced at twice. Our car apers were never asked for.

I also found out about a new European sense of cash. I never once had to worry about money. Cash machines coughed out local banknotes; credit cards were acceptable in most places. But with my pockets now full of useless small change and teller slips testifying to how much banks have ripped me off, I have become a firm supporter of the Euro.

- And I have also learned an important lesson. Personal cars were indeed made for trips to schools and supermarkets. It took another two hours to reach our .: Next time I shall take the plane, and hire



All aboard the Namesakes Line

London Underground lines are grinding to a halt. So Simon Calder has devised an alternative, much more scenic line

whose silver lining I was enjoying, was marching briskly. Time to move on. While London commuters stewed in buses standing in for the tubes to Elephant & Castle and New Cross, and the Jubilee Line extension went nowhere fast. I travelled alone but happy from Charing Cross to Tower Hill, then to Warren Street and Charing Cross again, ending up at Kennington. While Greater London Radio warned about delays. I was enjoying the

the dark cloud over London, best of days. I could have extended the whose silver lining I was enjoy trip to Waterloo (Belgium), but hopping through the Kentish countryside through places sharing names with well-known Tube stations - commuting with nature along my Namesakes Line - proved too intoxicating. All the places on the line can be found strung above ground from the Medway to the Stour, within easy reach of ordinary, socalled "above-ground" trains.

You begin from Charing Cross station. London. Your train potters through places familiar from the tube map, such as Waterloo, London Bridge and New Cross, but from an unfamiliar angle - sweeping aloof past the sanctity of Southwark Cathedral and the desecration of south-east London. The pinnacle of Canary Wharf tower lingers for a dozen miles, indicating where the Jubilee Line may reach before the end of the century. Trucks toil across the Dartford River Crossing, while your train bowls across the Shorne Marsh, then dives into a threemile tunnel to remind you what you're not missing beneath the streets of London, It emerges on the left bank of the Medway, upstream from the first stop: Tower Hill.

Tower Hill: The hill struggles to beat 100 feet in altitude, but its position means that its summit is a fine place from which to witness the cheerful confusion of the Medway Estuary. Four towns are crammed into as many miles: Chatham and Rochester vie for historical significance, while Strood and Gillingham scrap for ascendancy

as the perfect dormitory town. From Strood station, you follow the Medway downstream and soon see the wedge appear beside the waterside. Straight out of a geography textbook, it builds slowly from the west to a climax, then topples down a steep escarpment into the estuary. I clambered up the scarp slope through a miscellany of stumpy trees and bushes enlivened by some vivid wildflowers - as mauve as the Metropolitan Line, as red as the Central, and with the odd golden flash of a Circle Line buttercup.

Across the river, you can make out the keep of the Norman castle at Rochester - as high up as you are - and a brace of bridges over the Medway. No sight is stranger, though, than the one that

by the odd graunch of gears. Grabbing clumps of grass, you haul yourself to the lip of the summit and are startled by the sight of five buildozers in perfect formation, flattening the already smooth earth in an unnatural arena. You have stumbled upon a Royal Engineers training ground where the military teaches civil engineering. They have to practice earthmoving somewhere, and the crest of Tower Hill is the chosen venue. At the rate they are shaving the hill, the name may soon

greets you right at the top of Tower Hill. darkly monochrome sky. Instead of You hear them before you see them, a rumble of diesel engines punctuated London, you are 600 feet above sea. The shape thus created is a cross, maglevel and watching the sun leak through a few gaps in the cloud, while magnies wheel and butterflies dance.

Charing Cross: Insert the letter "m" into the name Charing, and you have an instant description of this village. Half-timbered and half not, it ambles from the foot of the valley (where the railway and the A20 roar) towards the Downs. The chief attraction is the ruined Archbishop's Palace, a 15thcentury manor-house which has been subsumed into a working farm.

change to Shoreditch **GREATER LONDON**

Warren Street: The thoroughfare that gives this Downland village its name could hardly be more different from the Warren Street in London WC1, which is a grimy sidestreet several notches less impressive even than Edgware Road and Chancery Lane.

The appeal of Warren Street, Kent, is summed up in the sign decorating the village pub, the Harrow: a ploughman. carving lazily across the North Downs - a dreamily agrarian vision beneath a benign sky. Warren Street has just enough critical mass to possess a postbox, as well as a pub, but the rewards of this metropolis lie beyond The Warren, The Gables and the contented white clapboard of Fairview Cottage. The wheat fields are full of plump, golden ears bursting to be harvested, compensating admirably for the now

You have a choice of no fewer than three crosses. In the churchyard, a miniature version of the Eleanor Crosses - Edward I's funerary memorials to his queen's last journey from Lincoln to Winchester. As she passed through London his memorial bestowed the name Charing Cross on what is now the bub of the capital.

Climb upwards, and swing left into a sunken lane called The Wynd, and you find yourself switchbacking to the crest of Charing Hill. The wind picks up. which is precisely why cross number two is sited here. The four sails of a handsome old windmill face squarely towards France, catching any gust that is going The greatest cross is a long hike from ond-hand book sale is in progress there, here, though still within sight of the vil- with a box for contributions to a nearby lage. A vast wheat field is punctuated by home for the elderly. You don't find that

nificent in its simplicity and its size. The White Cross on the Hill was carved out on the slope in tribute to the dead of two world wars, when Kent was the closest county to the front line. Next time you fly into Gatwick from the usual direction (the east), get a seat on the right and you can't miss the cross above Charing.

Kennington: The Kennington Loop is a legendary part of the Underground. circle beneath London SE11 where Northern Line trains turn around for the journey back to Barnet. (Some commuters maintain that a certain proportion are lost en route, which helps to explain the dismal delays on the capital's worst tube line.) The loop around Kennington, Kent, is altogether more

rewarding.
First, though, you have to find it – as tricky a job as tracking down a Mill Hill East train at Camden Town. Kennington is just north of Ashford, separated by a six-lane motorway. Even when you locate the village, the start of the Kennington circuit is blighted by ungainly housing estates whose roads mock the countryside they obliterate with names like The Pasture. (St John's Wood, on the Jubilee Line, tells a similar fib.)

As the circumnavigation continues, things improve. St Mary's Church is cut off from suburbia by some flamboyant overgrowth, and reached through an arcade of deepest green. Beyond it, Ashford cricket club plays in a more attractive arena than London's Kennington Oval; and instead of a gas-holder, the view is of an oast house or two.

You continue the loop past some fetching cottage, whose weatherbeaten red turns out, on closer inspection, to be a collage of browns and dusty golds; off whites and stray greens. Then, you emerge on to the inner circle, a massive meadow devoted to summer lazing. Idlers are provided with a carpet of buttercups, and an expansive oak or two for shade or shelter from that menacing cloud.

I came home from the nearest station. Wye. A permanent (and unstaffed) seca grassy rectangle. Much of the filmsy a sort of thing at Oxford Circus.

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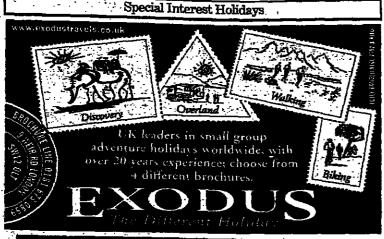
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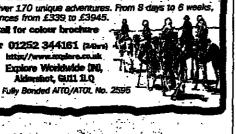
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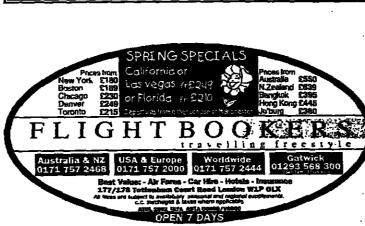
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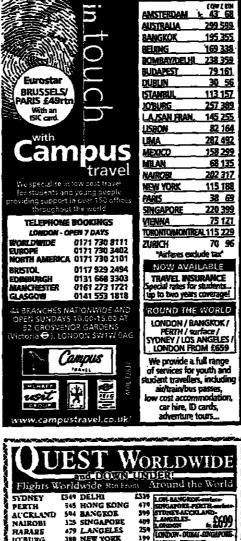
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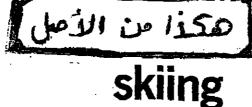
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By Stephen Wood

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May: glacier skiing in the Alps

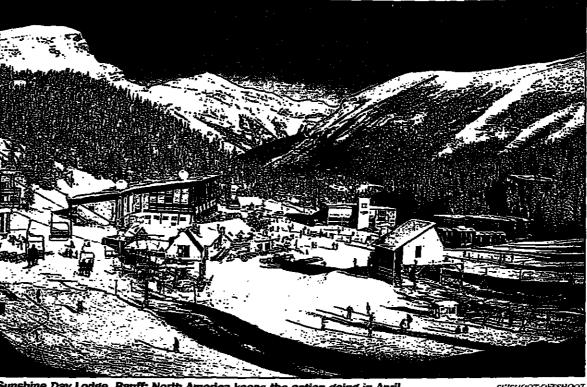
Glacier skiing is popular with Contin-packages to Las Lenas in Argentina, a ental skiers, and with racers training in purpose-built ski resort 2,225m up in the off-season; but there is not enough demand among British skiers to justify ski-tour operators offering package holidays. So you usually have to make your own travel arrangements. May am reading from the brochure here and June are the best months to go, before the weather gets too hot; but even then the snow can be unpleasantly shishy by midday. Which are the resorts to go to? Martin Bell, Britain's most essful Olympic ski-racer, evaluates 33 European glaciers in the current

he skiing season is over. At picking out Hintertux in Austria, Zerleast, it is for me: this is my last matt in Switzerland and Tignes in least, it is for me: this is my last matt in Switzerland and Tignes in column. But just because there France as the best. If you can't be bothare only a few weeks left in the ered to make all the arrangements, B&B packages from £344.

June: Scandinavia

For 1996/7, Ski Scandinavia has produced its first year-round skiing brochure, running from November '96 to September '97. For the first half of June it offers two packages to Riksgransen in Sweden, recommended for intermediate-to-advanced skiers. The

Most serious summer skiing takes place in the southern hemisphere. Journey Latin America is offering purpose-built ski resort 2,225m up in the Andes. The snow there is dry and powdery, with an average depth of 6.3m; and one of the 40 runs is 7km long, with a vertical drop of 1,220m. (I because, sadly, I have never skied farther south than Lebanon.) The Journey Latin America package costs £755, for room only in a "tourist class" hotel.



Sunshine Day Lodge, Bariff: North America keeps the action going in April

SKISHOOT-OFFSHOOT

guided tour packages reaches about £1,900 for a 10-day, full-board trip, with seven days' skiing. La Parva is linked to two other resorts, one of which, Valle Nevado, is even higher. Heli-skiing is available; and - if you are rich enough to take the whole family - there is an all-day ski school for children from three years old. Passage to South America has two departures, on 4 and 11 August.

September: Australia

You'll have to make your own way to Australia, and then on to the ski areas of Victoria and New South Wales, I haven't been able to find any tour operator offering ski packages from the UK. On the other hand, the Australian Tourist Commission produces a 13page guide to skiing in Australia, with descriptions of the resorts and contact lists for transport companies, accom- November: Finland modation and local ski-tour operators.

the price of Passage to South America's to book a week's skiing there: the guide but it's not very far downhill, because

October: New Zealand

The skiing season at New Zealand's Ski Ruapehu runs into November, and the resort offers the added excitement of having a semi-active volcano beneath the snow. Mount Hutt and Queenstown may be a little marginal this month, since the resorts close at the end of October; on the other hand they (but not Ski Ruapehu) are both featured in the Mount Cook Line Ski seven months to choose your destin-Express brochure, which offers six-day skiing packages for from £290 (room only). If that seems cheap, it's because you have to pay your own way to Christchurch - the package begins only when you get on to the transfer

Back to Europe, as the winter closes in. 33 European glaciers in the current A step up from Las Lenas is La Parva, There is even a page on Tasmania, Finland may have the biggest downhill Mount Cook Line (0181 issue of the Daily Mail Ski Magazine, in Chile. The skiing goes up to 3,630m; although it probably wouldn't be wise skiing area in the Arctic Circle, at Yllas, Nonista (0171-409 7334).

the top of the resort is only 718m high. The surrounding area, however, is magical, and the seriously underpopulated cross-country tracks (stretching a total of 250km) offer an ideal opportunity to get fit for the following month. Norvista's packages to Yllas start at about £650.

And December? Just get your edges sharpened, and go where you're going. The winter brochures are to be published in April, so you will have had

Contacts: Neilson Holidays (0113-239 4555): Alpine Tours (01227 454777); Ski Scandinavia (0116-275 2750): Journey Latin America (0181-747 8315); Passage to South America (0181-767 8989): Australian Tourist Commission brochure line (0990 561434); New Zealand Travel Information Service (0181-748 4455): Mount Cook Line (0181-741 5652);

Bargain of the week

Sweden has never been a budget traveller's destination, but Rvanair (0541-569 569) intends to make it a bargain break from this summer. The low-fare airline is beginning services from London Stansted to Stockholm's Skavsta airport, charging £99 return plus

In addition, the airline has negotiated fares of £7 return for the Stansted Skytrain from London Liverpool Street to the Essex airport, and a £10 roundtrip fare for the bus ride into the Swedish capital.

At present, the best fare from British Airways (0345 222111) is a World Offer of £129 plus tax, which must be booked by next Wednesday, 26 March. It is valid for travel until 16 May.

Go jump on a board

ntil snowhoarding came along, the glaciers of the Alps were lonely places in the summer. A few, such as those of Solden and Tignes, provided a ski racers' Lanzarote - a place to train off-season. But generally, while ski resorts teem with walkers, bikers, climbers and sightseers from the Far East throughout the hot months, you rarely see someone Robocopping to the cable car in ski boots.

The mushrooming of boarding, though, has transformed certain mountain idylls. Kaunertal, for example, a remote valley off the main road between Innsbrück and St Anton, was once so neglected by skiers in summer that tumbleweed rolled across the moraine and the ski patroller was Lee Van Cleef. Then the Austrian Snowboard Association took over the glacier and now it throbs with riders taking advantage of the

school, rental shop and board-testing programme. The reason snowboarders like the summer is that the two restrictions that put skiers off do not hother them. Clocking up piste miles has never been a priority on a board. You can extract far more from each trail; fast-carving it on one run; meandering down it on another, doing spins. riding backwards and performing other ground tricks: or "scoping" it for hits to jump off. So the fact that you may only have 20km of piste to play with really doesn't matter. The short skiing day is no problem, either; in the icy morning you can take advantage of the carving propensities of the new generation of boards, and you can stay out later in the afternoon because one wide surface performs better in slush than two narrow ones. You'll still come down the mountain at about 2pm, but that suits the chilled nature of snowboarding - particularly if you are learning, You'll appreciate the chance to rest muscles you were previously unaware of.

If you're already a competent rider, summer ski areas are the place to start working on your freestyle skills, as most resorts with a glacier maintain half pipes and fun parks through the summer. Two resorts are highly recommended for summer boarding. Les Deux Alpes, France has a long, gentle glacier served by a breather-providing funicular train - ideal for learning. It is also home to a branch of Chalet Snowboard (14 June to 30) August, 01235-767182), the specialist tour operator, where the chief instructor of British snowboarding, Martin Drayton, offers expert guidance to the uninitiated. In the afternoons, Chalet Snowboard also lays on mountain biking.

For more of a hard-core, free-style scene, Kommunity Camps (6-26 July, 01484 680133), run by some leading lights of Brit boarding. concentrate their activities on the fun park. Saus Fee, Switzerland has the biggest and best fun park in Europe. It comes in two chunks connected by a tunnel through the ice. There are three half pipes (separating first-timers from experts), a gang of differently shaped jumps, a boardercross course (lots of banked corners and rollers), a "beach" bar and a booming sound system mounted on a snoweat. Who needs Ibiza?

Chris Madigan

something to declare

Trouble spots Watertight tickets

HEKE

Life for Greek island-hoppers is about to become more complicated - but possibly safer - following a change in ticketing rules for ships. In the new edition of Greek Island Hopping 1997, author Frewin Poffley was possible to buy tickets from quayside vendors or on the ferry itself as well as by 31 March 1997."

regular ticket agents. Things changed when the car ferry Olympia Express (licensed capacity 1,200) Piracus for trying to sail with 2.725 passengers on

had her captain arrested at board. A presidential reports: "Until this spring it decree was issued requiring all ferry operators to bring in a computer ticket system

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1000 feet above the tranquil bay of Kyrenia stands

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Sleeping Beauty

True or false:

The brandy barrel carried by St Bernards in the Alps is a myth

True, according to the monks who still keep a 900year-old hospice running at the top of the 8,114-ft pass of the Col de Grand St-Bernard. As far as they can tell,

the idea grew up many decades ago after a stuffed hero of the passes, Barry, was left in the basement of a Swiss museum. Museum workers used to eat their lunches in the basement, and, it seems, one of them left his portable wine barrel hanging round Barry's neck. The barrel was found when the museum rehabilitated the famous dog, and, judging it picturesque, the curators left it there. The rest is history.

The dogs themselves are still very much in evidence as they breed and pass the summer in kennels at the top of the pass. They are no longer used for avalanche search and rescue, however, having ceded their place to lighter, heli-

Heavy wire also keeps any traveller from trying to approach the great animals: local Swiss still remember the day when one of the St Bernards chose to gobble up one too-curious child for lunch. even though it may have had no brandy to chase it down with.

copter-friendly pedigrees.

Hugh Pope



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at a large reduction.

The choice of vessels on which to cruise will be the MS Serenale, the MS Soleil and the MS Glory. April/May is one of the best times to travel to Egypt from a weather point of view and if, like most people, a Nile cruise has always been on your list of Classic Journeys and you are able to travel at fairly short notice, then this is surely an opportunity that should not be missed. only that should not be miss

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Day 8 Fly direct to London Catwick.

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Deborah Jackson's second look at fun days out with the school curriculum in mind

family days out, we take another journey through the National Curriculum Key Stage Two history topics.

Last week's selection of ancient civilisations forced us to use our imagination amongst stone curvings and shards of pottery. This week, history comes up to date, with three lively themes to be found in most country parks and museums. A trip to a Tudor manor-house or a Victorian theatre helps to make history "happen" for seven-to-70year-olds. But don't forget to take a primary school child with you they make excellent tour guides.

Study unit 2: Life in Tudor Times Pupils should be taught about the major events and personalities of the period, including monarchs and Shakespeare.

The centre of all things Elizabethan is, of course, ve olde Stratford-upon-Avon, where a combination of bad planning and tourism has conspired to create some of the worst traffic congestion in the country. Nevertheless, the Shakespeare Country Association of Tourist Attractions has an enviable collection, from Will's birthplace to Anne Hathaway's pretty thatched cottage. The Shakespearian Heritage Trail includes a self-guiding leaflet and admission to five propenties (01789 204016.)[

Hardwick Hall in Stainsby, Derhyshire. (01246 850430) is celebrating its 400th anniversary - 1597 being the year that Elizabeth, the four-times-married and obscenely wealthy Countess of Shrewsbury (Bess of Hardwick) moved into her new home. The building is opulent, with six towers, vast windows, a world-class collection of tapestries and Bess's own chest of jewels. Events for 1997 include dancing. music and special tours.

A romantic atmosphere surrounds the more modest Owlpen Manor near Uley in Gloucester-1450 and features a Tudor great hall vants' quarters.

uill seeking inspiration for and the ghost of Queen Margaret of Anjou from the Wars of the Roses. Wall paintings and craft

displays help to create the scene. But for one of the best examples of half-timbered architecture, visit Little Moreton Hall, Scholar Green, Cheshire (01260 272018), a stunning black-and-white house dating from 1580 that looks as though it is about to topple into its own most.

Study unit 3a: Victorian Britain For this and the next unit, pupils are "taught about the lives of men, women and children at different levels of society and the ways in

▲ Be sure to take a primary school child with you. They make excellent tour guides 7

which they were affected by changes in industry and transport".

Small-town Britain is awash with recreated Victorian classrooms and laundries. It must have been a devil of a job to get the ink blots off their nice white shirts. A good place to start is the Ragged School Museum in Bow, London (0181-980 6405) where the story of Dr Barnardo and the lot of poor East End children is chillingly retold.

From rags to riches: life for the privileged child, complete with nursery and nanny, can be seen at Brodsworth Hall in Doncaster (01302 722598), a Victorian country house which has survived largely intact, from the faded grandeur of shire (01453 860261). It dates from the family rooms to the spartan ser-

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ting.Tel Million Abbas 0125 880558(brock) Ir Lulworth cove . 17th c. Therche

There are many Victorian 'villages" and streets to stroll, such as The Shambles of Newent, Gloucestershire (01531 822144), Flambards Victorian Village in Cornwall (01326 564093) - complete with shop smells and time-capsule pharmacy - and Blists Hill Museum at Ironbridge (01952 433522), a working Victorian town spread over 40

butcher's, baker's or pub. Famous Victorian personalities to call on include Charles Dickens for instance, the house at 48 Doughty Street, London WC1 (0171-405 2127), where he wrote Oliver Twist and Nicholas Nickleby; Queen Victoria, whose private apartments, untouched since her death, are on view at Osborne House, Isle of Wight (01983 200022); and Florence Nightingale, administering to the sick in a Crimean ward scene at the Florence Nightingale Museum in London SEI (0171-620 0374).

Other rarities include Queen Victoria's favourite railway saloon car at the National Railway Museum in York (01904 621261); a tour down a Victorian sewer (complete with sounds and smells) at the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester (0161-832 2244) and a stately cruise on the steam yacht Gondola, first launched on Coniston Water, Cumbria, in 1859 and still in service (015394 41288).

Study unit 3b: Britain since 1930 The impact of the Second World War is the main theme for this topic, with lowlights such as evacuation, the Blitz and the Depression. Strangely enough for grownups, radio, cinema and television are also now a part of the history curriculum.

Track 60 years of change at a motor museum, such as the national collection at Beaulieu, Hampshire (01590 612345). The story of mass motoring is told through post-war cars; the Morris and Alfred Hitchcock. Minors, Ford Cortinas and De Loreans are, of course, genuine. Imperial War Museum (0171-416 840565), discover what it was like the Thirties. Admission is by pre-

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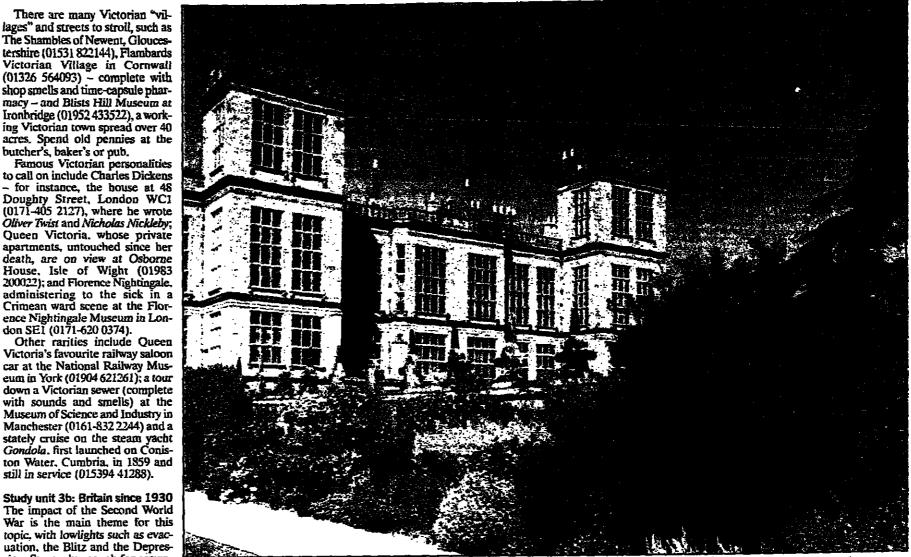
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Or trace the history of cinema at the Museum of the Moving Image, London SE1 (0171-815 1331) where old cameras, costumes and film clips transport you back to the days of Fred Astaire, Orson Welles

Wartime stories begin at the eum, Yeovilton, Somerset (01935 after the death of their parents in

Britain at War Experience (0171-403 3171), you can crouch uncomexperiencing the sights, the sounds, the smells and even the dust of the

For a taste of ordinary post-war life, visit Mr Straw's House, 7 Blyth fortably in an Anderson shelter, Grove, Worksop, Nottinghamshire experiencing the sights, the sounds, (01909 486411), a semi-detached the smells and even the dust of the home carefully preserved by Wil-Blitz. At the Fleet Air Arm Mus- liam Straw and his brother Walter

HELLIAN PARTHER

5000), while at Winston Churchill's to be a Second World War pilot. booked, timed ticket only - to a world where nothing has been thrown away for 63 years.

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ST. DAVIDS, Familiouse in Nat Peri

Now for a French nursery tale

emoval vans have never played much of a part in my life. We've only ever had two houses and when we moved into the first, from a rented hovel 200 yards away, we shunted our few possessions down the full in a wheelbarrow. The prama helped, too. In our lives, babies and house moves seem always to have gone together.

So it was with a sense of awe that Listened to Carol Strafford and John Worrall who, at the end of this month, are packing up not only home; furniture, books, cooking pots and cats, but also an entire plant aursery. They are moving to France, to a small village just north of Sammur in the Loire valley. With them will come 3,000 stock plants, dug up from their present site near-Wimborne in Dorset, and about 5,000 pots of plants for sale. which will form the nucleus of the new venture.

Archangel Plants specialises in interesting perennials: good aquiegias old wallflowers such as Bloody Warrior, fine monardas, phlor, salvia, poppies (including the sumptuous dusky 'Patty's Plum') and red-hot pokers. For the last cont years, all the propagating and post of the selling (apart from weekend stints by John) has been done by Carol. Now John is giving up his job as a prison counsellor and they are going to run the nursery together.

Which came first, I asked? The desire to go to France or giving up the counselling? As it turned out, neither. The story starts with a fortune teller who read Carol's palm and told her that France was John's spiritual home. Carol looks slightly sheepish telling me this, as sensible people do when admitting to something as deliciously irrational as having their fortunes told.

But it all seemed to fit. The nursery needed to expand. There was no possibility of buying extra land close to their present site. They had looked in vain for another smallholding in this country that they could take over. And although Carol says she can't speak a word of French, John, indeed, does confess to a kind of unspoken affinity with France and the French.

How will she cope? "As long as I've got plants, I don't care what goes on around me," Carol replies.
"It's not going to be that different from my life here. And it's odd. but everything seems to have gone our way since we made the decision to

Earlier this year, they took a week off to look for their future in chose itself. They didn't want to go far south, because it would be difficult to continue to grow the plants they like. They wanted to remain within striking distance of this shows in the south of England



Uprooting for France: Carol Strafford and John Worrall of Archangel Plants

of the nursery ground is presently

covered in couch and bramble. But

there is a gite attached to the prop-

erty which could provide an income

while the nursery is finding its feet.

"And there are wonderful decidu-

each summer and keep their name renting more. There are two lakes. alive with their English customers. They wanted to be near a good France. To a certain extent, the area local market in France, where they could sell plants regularly.

After only two days of searching, they left their hearts on a D road at Mouliherne. La Pommasserie (I saw the photographs) is a low, country, so that they could do a few colour-washed house with three acres of land and the possibility of

ous oaks. A bit of pine ... " says a stream, plenty of wild euphorbias John dreamily (which was a good guide to what The area is full of small market they could expect to grow), and soil gardeners. If vegetables grew well fast draining over tufa rock. Most there, they reasoned, so would

> seemed to be growing garden plants for sale, so they do not feel they will have much competition. What will they do differently in their new nursery, I wondered?

By Anna Pavord "Watering," said Carol instantly, At work at Kew and then joined a

transplant a business?

What does it take to

the moment they hauf a hose around from a single standpipe outside their back door. In France, they will put in automatic irrigation. "And a mechanised trolley?" said John, in a way that was more of a question than a statement. Carol made a face. The trolley is evidently still a matter for negotiation.

Given the incredibly long hours. the sudden deaths caused by harshwinters and drought summers, the difficulty of earning an income that approaches even the minimum wage for agricultural labourers. you wonder why anyone ever wants a nursery of their own. But it has been one of the marvels of the last decade that, alongside the growth of the garden centre, there has been as they unpack their crates of caman equal growth in the number of small, specialist nurseries such as Archangel Plants.

their plants. Nobody in the area The nursery was a dream that Carol and John had 15 years ago. when they were both students of horticulture at Cannington College in Somerset. Carol went on to

wholesale nursery. John went first into horticultural therapy, then into even more demanding territory, rehabilitating drug addicts and alcoholics.

Carol set up her own nursery, she said, because she "didn't like being told what to do". That makes her sound much more bullish than she generally appears. But it was also the only way she could get to grow the plants she liked best. Fortunately those also happened to be the plants that are most in favour at the moment: herbaceous perennials. Growing plants, she says, is the easy bit. The part she hates is the selfing. That is where John comes in.

So wish them luck this summer. panulas and anemones, sages and sedums, and settle them into French soil. And pay them a visit if you are going to the Loire valley. They will be at La Pommasserie. 49390 Mouliherne, near Saumur. Look for them on the left-hand side of the D279 on leaving Mouliherne.

lower of the hour, Pulmonaria "Lewis Palmer". All the lungworts are good, but this is the best of all the ones that are flowering in my garden at the moment, over about 18 inches. It does 14yd once space for a new with flowers of a gorgeous true blue and leaves splashed and soil to dry. spotted with silver. This month, Pulmonarias concentrate on producing their flowers, which, in most of the cultivars, drift indeterminately from pink to January 1996) when they blue. "Sissinghurst White" is moved from London to the best of the whites. Later Hartwell End Farm in they turn their attention to Northamptonshire and found their leaves, and these - large, themselves with a vast sea of hairy and mottled to varying concrete instead of a garden at degrees with silver - provide their front door. We talked excellent ground cover through the summer. In this way, the variegated Pulmonarias are

coarse green leaves, though flowers of a piercing azure in spring. "Lewis Palmer" grows about a foot high and spreads well in shade, but prefers damp

Remember the Newton-Golding family? They were the subject of a Workshop piece (*The Independent*, 13 about various solutions - making raised beds, digging out planting holes in the concrete

"Munstead Blue" which have thought the only solution was than your estito get rid of the stuff. Quotes mate, from contractors in Dorset suggested that the cost of tractors breaking up the area (30yd x drive had been taken out) under the conwould be around £1,700.

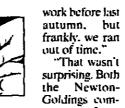
Eileen Newton-Golding but recently wrote to say how they because of the had been getting on over the past year. It hasn't been an easy one. What you had to say fitted in with what we had all been feeling," she says, "and I would love to be able to tell you that we have wonderful trees growing in the front now.

"We approached several contractors for quotes. The cheapest (I kid you not) was hetter value than types such as bed - but in the long term, I £5,500. The cost was higher

because the conunsure how deep the reinforcement crete would be, mostly

cost of dumping the waste." That was interesting. The contract have a vast complement of anitors I had talked to all knew of mals - sheep, horses, dogs, free landfill sites where hard- cats, chickens and two heifers core was needed. Dumping did not represent a cost.

"So." continues Mrs Newton-Golding, "we decided to go for the cheaper option of punching holes through the concrete and we had every intention of completing the



as the two acregarden, they - to look after as well.

mute to Lon-

don and as well

The good news is that they have bought the wood at the end of their land. But, as Mrs Newton-Golding pointed out. that has absorbed much of the eash available for the garden. We wanted to preserve the

felled and leaving us open to the M1, but also because it is such a lovely thing to have. Our fears about the felling may not That wasn't have been misplaced...

Friends are still offering alternative uses for our concrete. Back to swimming pools and tennis courts again. One suggested fencing it in, sanding it over and using it as a manege. One idea perhaps has some mileage in it. A friend of ours has done it in his vard. He only needed access to his barns a few times a year, so he devised a system of large sewer-pipe sections, each on a pallet on wheels, so when necessary he can move his trees

out of the way. A neat idea, but

we couldn't cope with the nec-

wood, to stop it from being essary watering. It might be a solution though if we find something really terrible underneath the concrete.

"But we will get the work done. We are having tencing done at the moment, to match the fence along the drive. We have also started to plant a beech hedge along the patch of grass outside the house. I am going to train apricot trees against the wall and we are planning to plant apple trees near the barns. The area we had hoped to turn into a small orehard is too full of rubble yes, more concrete which needs to be dug out - so that's on hold a bit longer." I don't doubt they'll get there in the end. They have the rest of

Travel from the tropics to the tundra in search of botanical treasures. And all within the confines of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. Experienced garden guides are leading walks on the wildside from today until a April. Meet at the West Gate. Arboretum Place at either Ham or 2pm. Admission is £2. Tomorrow at 2.30pm at the Botanics there is another tour based on plants that changed the world. What links aspirin with Sauchichall St.' How did Palmolive soap get its name? Which periwinkle cures cancer? Admission for this tour is E4. Meet at the West Gate, as above. For more details phone Heather Paul on 0131-552 7171.

Dreaming of daffodils

Patricia Cleveland-Peck offers a golden excuse for a visit to Gloucestershire in spring

ordsworth's famous hosts of golden daffodils still dance beside Ullswater in the Lake District but the true Mecca for wild daffodils in England is a little-known corner of north-west Gloucestershire, bounded by the villages of Oxenhali, Dymock and Kempley. The area has such a spectacular annual display of daffodils that at one time the Great Western Railway ran special day-excursion trains to bring trippers in to enjoy the sight. People from as far afield as Bristol and Birmingham returned in their charabanes laden with armfuls of the flowers, and gypsies converged on the woods with hessian sacks which they filled with uprooted bulbs to sell in the cities. The local poet John Masefield vividly

And there the pickers come, picking for town Those dancing daffodils: all day they pick; Hard featured women, weather beaten

Or swarthy red, the colour of old brick. Local people also benefited from the abundant seasonal harvest by selling bunches from farm gates. Even cycling clubs organised picking jaunts. "You could follow the trails of dropped flowers for miles," recalls Robert Biscoe, a 73-year old local resident. "Now the daffodils have declined a lot, but when I was a boy at Picklenash school, we picked them every year for the London hospitals. We would take bunches to school and then all parade down to the Comrades' Club where they were boxed up. They were then taken to Newent station and put on the London train ... The London hospitals would then reply, thanking us, and the letters were pinned up on the board in the Comrades' Club." Mr Biscoe's ancestors were Huguenot weavers and linen-workers who came to Gloucestershire in the 1770s. He thinks it possible that they settled in this area because of their trade, as daffodils were at one time used as a dyestuff.

The wild daffodil, or Lent lily, Narcissus pseudonarcissus, is a particularly lovely native

flower, a true harbinger of spring with its small, two-tone yellow trumpets and freshgreen foliage. At one time it grew so profusely throughout England that a Belgian botanist visiting Cheapside, London in 1581 wrote: "... the country women offer the blossoms in great abundance for sale and all the taverns may be seen decked out with this flower." It continued to grow prolifically over a large area until the early decades of this century, when it went into a rapid decline,

leaving only local pockets of growth.

That this area of Gloucestershire has remained unspoiled is not entirely fortuitous, for in a quiet way a lot of effort has been put into its preservation. A successful road campaign was conducted with the backing of the Council for the Protection of Rural

The state of the s

England, which helped to save the daffodil woods from being bisected by an extension to the A40. The proposed road, which would have belped to link the M50 with the M4, was considered by local people to be totally unnecessary and impracticable, running as it would over land which was regularly flooded by the Severn. The daffodil area was but a fraction of the whole, but the campaign succeeded because all interested groups along its length linked up and kept the protest firmly in public view. In March 1994 the proposal disappeared from the roads programme, ostensibly due to lack of money.

The last "Daffodil Special" train ran in 1959 and picking wild flowers is now

regarded as environmentally unacceptable, but local people, who are proud of their heritage, still welcome visitors to enjoy the spring ritual. A series of "daffodil teas" are held in village halls and organised walks take place over relevant weekends during the daffodil season. If you are feeling really energetic, one of the best ways to see the display is to follow the "daffodil way", which was set up on the initiative of the Windcross public paths project with support from national and local authorities and the cooperation of local landowners. This 10-mile walk traces a roughly circular path along rights of way and lanes, passing orchards, meadows, woods and brooks. At this time of year, daffodils are never far from sight, but equipped with a brochure (see below) which contains a map and clear instructions, you will discover many other interesting things along the way. You pass the vestiges of an 18th-century canal, a 19th-century railway. and many old buildings including part of an Elizabethan farmhouse, the 14th-century church of St Mary's Dymock with its shingled steeple, and Kempley old church, referred to by John Betjeman as "a miniature cathedral of the Arts and Craft movement", which contains interesting medieval frescoes. There is a convenient pub, the Beauchamp Arms, for a pause for refreshment, and if you don't feel up to the full 10 miles, plenty of short cuts can be made following the link paths on the map. It is a walk you won't forget.

22-23 March, Oxenhall. Teas to raise funds for St Anne's Church. Also sales of home-made cakes, scones, jam etc. 29-30 March, Dymock. Two-mile guided walk on Sunday from Dymock, parish hall, returning to the parish hall for tea.

5-6 April, Kempley. Guided walks from the village hall, 11am and 2pm each day. See the medieval frescoes in the church. Refreshments and produce, village hall, 11am-2pm.
The Daffodil Way', 50p, and other brochures from Tourist Information Centre, Church Street, Newent (01531 82246).

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Drained, sprayed, and flattened

The countryside is under threat. The story of Barbara Sutton and the family smallholding which was razed for efficiency is typical of the march of 'progress'. Jack O'Sullivan reports

hen Barbara Sutton was a child in the Fifties, her summers were spent idyllically on her grandparents' 300-acre farm near Skegness, beneath the big skies of the Lincolnshire fens. Her days were spent on the back of Peggy, the family's shire horse, charged with ploughing and harrowing the rich, arable soils at the back of Ingoldmells near Addlethorpe. Each morning she would help milk the 20 cows so early that, on returning for breakfast, she would hear "Good Morning." fast, she would hear "Good Morning Campers", drifting across the land from the Butlins camp on the coast. Then there would be haymaking, and in the evening milking again, before heading home to a farmhouse that had no electricity, a single cold water tap, a single gas lamp and beds specially made up for the children out of birds feathers.

"It was a perfect life," she recalls. "Paradise." But earlier this week, we travelled with Mrs Sutton to the site of the old farm. Where once there were orchards of plums, apples and cherries, there is nothing. The willow that stood beside the bridge over a dike has now gone. Indeed, there isn't even a farm gate. All the trees have been uprooted, save one sycamore which looks, after being struck by lightening, like the sole survivor of a massacre. The hedges that surrounded the settlement are gone. Of the farmhouse and outbuildings, buildozed in the Sixties, there is not a trace. All that remains are vast, featureless fields - a prairie that wouldn't look out of place in America's Midwest, drained, sprayed, artificially fertilised, tidied, a land devoid of insects, birds, wild mammals and people. Where there were once five small farms leading from a sleepy lane, there is just one, consolidated agribusiness, where the only thing that moves across the monotonous landscape

is a huge tractor.
Yet this is supposed to be a model of British agricultural success. A land that has produced huge profits from decades of EU grain subsidies and more recently has cashed in on the explosion of prices on the world market.

"I don't come back very often," says Mrs Sutton, whose family sold up in 1961. "I feel so sad when I visit. To me this particular spot is like hallowed ground. No one can take it away from me, because I have my memories. But I've always wondered what happened to a tin we buried in concrete, when my step-grandfather built an extension to the milking parlour. We left a few things in that tin, messages and so on, which we thought would be there for 1,000 years. We didn't realise the

whole place would be gone in five years." Mrs Sutton's tale has been played out across Britain since the Second World War, when the first of many incentives for intensive farming led farmers to forsake traditional mixed farming in favour of industrial techniques owing more to ICI's laboratories than to history's great agricultural innovators - Turnip Townshend. Robert Bakewell and Jethro Tull.





The way it was (above): the house and the old hay rick. Right: Mrs Sutton on the site of her home. Only the sycamore remains to remind her of her childhood

PICTURE: KEITH DOBNEY

A fierce indictment of post-war husbandry has been published by Graham Harvey, better known for nostalgic images of the shires, cultivated in The Archers, of which Harvey is the agricultural story edi-tor. His book, The Killing of the Countryside, is a call to arms for lovers of Britain's countryside, a plea to save from the "grim reapers" of modern farming the riches that inspired Edith Holden to write The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady, and to avoid a future more reminiscent of TS Eliot's The Wasteland.

Perhaps most worrying about the book are its predictions of what may be coming next. For if you think that, in the era of "set-aside" and food surpluses, agribusiness has done its worst to the countryside, Harvey will put you straight. He warns that Britain faces, with the active collusion of government, even greater intensification of farming. Big landowners, he says, now seek to drive down costs so Britain can compete against the US in the great new grain export markets of China and Asia where affluence is bringing huge increases in the demand for meat and, with it, demand for grain animal feeds. In short, you ain't seen nothing yet if you fear for the rural landscape being turned into an industrialised desert.

There is an alternative to this nightmarish prospect. The images of a different future can be found in isolated spots where farmers with a devotion to the land keep faith with older ideals than profit and loss accounts.

This week, Rosamund Young was enjoying just such a vision on the 390-acre farm she works with her mother Mary and her brother Richard. The farm, near Broadway in Worcestershire, across the Vale of Evesham, is a haven for wildlife. The tall, unclipped hedges and long, uncut verges at Kite's Nest Farm are providing shelter for an explosion of spring wild flowers: violets, wood anemones, primroses, dog's mercury. In a week or so the bluebells will be out, along with the first of the orchids, to be followed later by wood sorrel and then, in the summer, Dyer's greenweed, a very rare, low. broom-like plant with yellow flowers.

As you drive through the farm, dozens of ground-nesting yellowhammers rise up from the meadows and a charm of goldfinches feed on thistleheads. The songbirds have found their voices among the herd of cattle, with animals of all ages, that graze in the pastures. Kite's Nest seems more like a nature reserve than a conventional farm.

This oasis has grown directly out of the Youngs' farming methods, which reject the intensive techniques of modern agriculture. No pesticides, crop sprays, artificial fertilisers, special hormones, antibiotic growth promoters or feed from ground animal carcasses are used on their organic farm.

"As a family we are desperately worried about the damage being done to the land by farming today," says Rosamund Young "Even at the expense of profit, we are let-ting areas grow wild." So, for example, the hedges are spared the annual brutalities of the flail mow, a device which has served the obsessional tidiness of so many farmers by cutting hedgerows down to a level that offers scant cover for nesting birds and inadequate breaks against winter

Kite's Nest is the cattle. "We allow the cattle to live in extended families. They look after each other. Grandmothers teach their daughters how to bring up their children. They choose a nice place. The cattle stand together for hours, as if in conversation, before a calf is born. The older ones teach the young where the water troughs are, where the best grass is, how to get shelter from the cold. They

need much less help from us. Whereas if you separate them by age, having a field, say, of one-year-olds, you get the same problems as if you leave children alone a herd of delinquent boys who, instead of grazing calmly, roam around looking for something to do.

The Youngs don't raise cattle for milk - except to serve their personal needs and they ensure that a calf is suckled for a year before a sibling is born. They have been surprised to discover - as has the local vet - that none of their animals has worms, even though no prophylactic drugs are added to feed. (Most British farm animals and many domestic ones have worms, providing a huge market for pharmaceutical products.) The farm's worm-free status is believed to be linked to the wide range of land over which the cattle can graze and the immunities passed on to calves by a long period of suckling (they are about four months old before they eat much grass).

Slaughter is performed as humanely as possible. Calves are taken only when weaned, and normally when a cow already has other calves. An appointment for first thing in the morning is made at the nearest abattoir, while it is still fresh from its overnight cleaning. The cattle are trans-

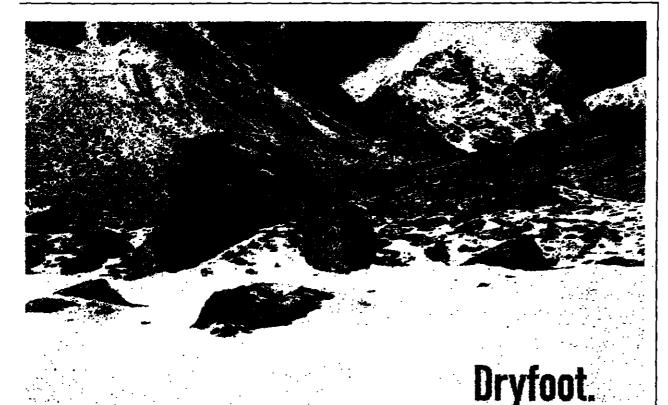
ported in pairs and killed within minutes of arrival. The meat is then brought back

to the farm for butchering. There has never been a case of BSE on the farm. Indeed, artificial feed - the source of BSE - has not been used on the farm since 1967, when Mary Young was horrified to discover, only after Poirotstyle detective work, that cattle cake comprised ground-up chicken bones and chicken manure, laced with aniseed to mask the taste.

It isn't an easy life. Rosamund Young says that none of the family has had a day off in five years. Sixteen-hour days are the norm. And the recession was hard on organic produce, killing off many small shops which had been opened in expectation of sales taking off.

But customers now travel hundreds of miles to buy produce direct from Kite's Nest Farm. £3.05 a pound for stewing steak and £3.98 for topside doesn't seem much to pay for the finest food and a safer, more bountiful countryside. Barbara Sutton, in Lincolnshire, would certainly not flinch at it if she could have saved her childhood dream from obliteration.

The Killing of the Countryside, by Graham Harvey, is published by Jonathan Cape, price £17.99.



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GET OUT AND STAY OUT

Feathers fly in raptor debate

ast autumn a gamekeeper confided to me that he had recently shot four buzzards in the space of 30 seconds as they emerged from a raid on his pheasant pen. "A double right-and-left!" he said, not without satisfaction. Yet his memory of the incident was tinged with anxiety, for he knew that if he had been detected, he would have been liable to a heavy fine.

Dozens of gamekeepers all over Britain have no doubt taken the law into their own hands in similar fashion during the past year. Whether they have shot a sparrowhawk, poked out a goshawk's nest or trampled a hen harrier's

eggs into oblivion, they are goaded by the belief that birds of prey have become intolerably numerous. Many other country

people share their

conviction, and none more vociferously than Duff Hart-Davis John Pugh, a Breconshire hill farmer who recently held an open day at his home near Rhayader to encourage discussion of conservation issues. The fact that more than 60 people turned out was in itself a reflection of widespread concern; many were sympathetic farmers, but the company included several representatives of

Society for the Protection of Birds. The main purpose of the day was to make professional conservationists face the realities of country life, from which Mr Pugh reckons they are far removed, and in particular to stir up the debate about raptors which is coming to the boil

national organisations, not least one

from Mr Pugh's bête noire, the Royal

countrywide. The RSPB has just brought out Birds of Prey in the UK - Back from the Brink, a report showing that most species of raptor have increased

significantly in recent years.

Sparrow-hawks, for instance, are now thought to number 35,000 pairs, and peregrines have recovered from the nadir of the Sixties, to which they were reduced by organochlorine pesticides, to 1,300 pairs, the highest total recorded this century. The same document insists that full legal protection of raptors must be maintained. It also records a steep fall in the numbers of songbirds: skylarks, song thrushes, tree sparrows and builfinches have all

gone down by more than 50 per cent in the past 25 years. Yet the RSPB attributes their demise to inimical

farming practices, and concludes that "sparrowhawks are not a significant cause of these declines". Such remarks are red rags to the likes of John Pugh, who maintains that members of the RSPB are no better than "blood sports"

enthusiasts". He claims that, by supporting the obsessive protection of raptors, they are in effect promoting mass

slaughter every day of the year. "Who are they to say that I cannot have peewits and curlews on my land?" he demands. "Who are they to say that I cannot have bullfinches in my hedges? Why should I have all these hawks killing everything?" He points out that the RSPB

already culls magpies and crows on some of its reserves, and now he is calling for an immediate change in the law which would enable landowners to take out licences for culling peregrines, sparrowhawks and goshawks. He maintains that his crusade is gathering support, and predicts that if no positive action is taken within the next few mouths, an alternative, more realistic bird society will come into being, with 50,000 domestic pigeon fanciers as instant starter members.



The killing of buzzards, if detected, can incur heavy fines

Less aggressive lobbyists are surprised, to put it mildly, that the RSPB has fired off its latest broadside without awaiting the report of the five-year joint raptor study now coming to an end at Langholm, the Duke of Buccleuch's estate in Dumfriess-shire. The aim of this major investigation, in which the RSPB itself has been taking part. along with the Game Conservancy Trust, the Institute for Terrestrial Ecology and other bodies, is to study the interaction of grouse and harriers. Its conclusions are eagerly awaited, and will be the talking-point of the

summer. Meanwhile, here on the Cotswold escarpment, my neighbour has just lost his eighth tumbler pigeon in as many weeks to our resident sparrowhawk, which flickers up and down the lane like a grey shadow. Unlike John Pugh, Dave take his losses calmiy, reckoning that he has to live in harmony with nature. But not everyone is that philosophical, and fireworks are to be expected.

The game of life

Jake Fiennes, a gamekeeper (and brother of the more famous Ralph), explains how raising birds for shooting improves the wild habitat

buds erupt. Songbirds herald dawn and a woodpecker taps a steady thythm on the bark of an old oak. A barn owl skims the edges of the churchyard, swooping in search of a scurrying mouse. The morning mist evaporates.

Another working day! No lengthy queues, no rush hour, no road rage, no deadlines.

PCs, faxes and mobile phones are aliens to this world.

My workplace of 4,500 acres in Norfolk is an oasis of hedges, woods, spinneys and dew ponds, cosseted and cocooned from the surrounding desert of wheat fields, fume-filled roads and antennaed, sodiumorange-lit villages. This is an ecosystem managed primarily for game birds, with huge fringe benefits to others.

Being a gamekeeper on a wild bird shoot is not solely about controlling predators. It is about creating a suitable habitat for ground-nesting birds. It's about control, not destruction. It's about management, not disarray. The months of March to July are probably the most magical and important to me. I aim to ensure a successful breeding season for all the birds, although this is not always assured due to unpredictable weather patterns. Keepers work closely with the farming team on lay-outs of brooder crops, field margins, hedge-cutting plans, manage-ment of set-aside and the spraying of herbicides and insecticides. A brooder trolled. It's well known that keepers and crop is a spring (or sometimes winter)

inter's spell is broken. The crop made up of a mixture of annuals to earth stirs. Leaves burst, produce seeds for food and cover for young birds in the summer and autumn. These run adjacent to field margins, a one-and-a-half-metre uncut strip running up a hedge or ditch that provides cover for young birds and also acts as a winter habitat for insect life. High hedges are used as windbreaks, cut only once every two to three years to leave berries for winter food and nesting for songbirds. Herbicides are kept to a minimum and insecticides are seldom sprayed after the middle of June. Insects are vital as part of the diet to promote the healthy growth

of young birds.

Woods are split up into small spinneys and belts composed of conifer and decid-uous trees. They are thinned every five years and rides are cut each autumn to encourage the growth of wild flowers and help ensure strong, tall trees free of competition.

In addition to managing their habitat, we supplement the birds' diet with hoppers of wheat at which they can feed ad lib. All birds visit these hoppers with increasing frequency in hard weather and rely on them right up until the beginning of May when wild food becomes suf-

There is a downside to all this management. The knock-on effect creates an explosion in the population of predators and grazers, which have in turn to be confoxes have little in the way of sympathy

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'Would I swap places with a city dweller? No chance

of those red creatures belies the masters of cunning and opportunity that lie within. No keeper would wish to eradicate the fox, but numbers need to be kept to the minimum in sensitive areas. Yes, they do enjoy a tasty bird. Ask anyone who keeps chickens. When fox numbers decrease the rabbit and hare population rise.

Rabbits are not easily tolerated by most farmers and country dwellers; they can cause destruction of crops almost overnight. Suppressing their numbers is an ongoing task. The expression "breed-ing like rabbits" is apt.

Hares, now, don't seem to cause the same animosity. Have you seen hares dancing in the fields at dusk on a spring evening? There is nothing more enchanting. But, again, if numbers become unacceptable and threaten the balance, there has to be some culling. It is not an enjoyable task, but hares are prone to disease

for each other. The gorgeous appearance when numbers increase and it's much better to influence levels than to see slow death occur. We are fortunate, here, that we have a good population of hares, mainly due to sound estate management. Much of the UK is now devoid of them. Stoats, weasels, grey squirrels and rats are also controlled, not to the point of eradication, but just sufficiently to ensure that birds and smaller mammals have a good chance of survival. This also results in a healthy population of raptors. Last year five pairs of barn owls successfully reared their young, and we had numerous tawny owls. Hobbies, merlins, harriers, red kites and buzzards are also frequent visitors to the estate. Restricting the numbers of corvids such as jays, magpies and crows isn't easy, and they can cause major predation to nests. The main preventive measures are to leave verges and ditches uncut to hide nest sites, and to leave hedges to thicken to make access difficult.

Keepers are themselves a rare breed not yet ready for culling, and wild keepers even more so. They are, without doubt, an important part of rural life; dare I say, they are custodians with an in-depth and hands-on knowledge of British wild life. They are part of a system that goes back hundreds of years and, if managed correctly, with care and attention to all animal and plant life, is of utmost benefit to the continuum of wildlife in the countryside. Keepers are at the forefront of the drive to reintroduce the wild grey partridge, and to maintain stocks of pure wild pheasants, which are not as common as many people would imagine. Life and death walk hand-in-hand in the countryside. Predators must be limited, even if only on specially selected sites, in order to encourage species that would otherwise disappear. Grey squirrels, for example, have caused the virtual demise of the red squirrel, and American mink have caused places with a city dweller? No chance.

considerable damage to our waterways. We live on a small island that is virtually overrun by the human race. Since the Industrial Revolution pollution has spiralled. Pollution does not discriminate. Habitats have been lost. Species have had to adapt to a man-made environment of motorways, pylons, and urban and industrial development. Some manage better than others. No longer do we have a village population sustained by agriculture, and academic knowledge alone cannot be a substitute for living and working with

Occupation for many means exchanging time for material gain. Occupation for me is time-consuming, too, but is a privilege. It offers hope for a heritage for our children, an opportunity to redeem some of man's mistakes. It is a chance to give our wild kingdom some oxygenated space and a hope of survival. Would I swap

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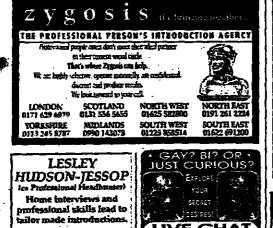
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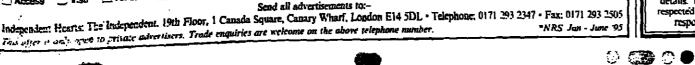
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The label is the message

t's a well-guarded secret in the rag trade that a plain white T-shirt bought whole-sale for £1 can be sold for £30, with a logo across the chest.

We are a nation of shopwearers. Parading expensive designer names such as Calvin Klein and Ralph Lauren is understandable, if vulgar. But the distinctly non-snob Next and Sweater Shop? Why?

The couture houses invented the visible label, and are now worried that they have created a monster that may destroy them. In the Eighties, T-shirts, belts and key rings subsidised loss-making catwalk clothes. Now sales of such trinkets are falling because the next generation of buyersgrew up with French designer logos on their Babygros, and will pay just as much for clothes endorsed by rap stars and sports heroes.

Enter Tommy Hilfiger. He was just another designer of casual wear until he stuck his red, white and blue flag logo on the gear. He is unashamedly mass-market. "Littlewoods catalogues agreed to carry him, so Harvey Nichols pulled out of their deal to stock him," chortled one relieved upmarket menswear supplier.

"He's a hugely successful Seventh Avenue clothing manufacturer - nothing high-fashion, jeans and jackets," analyses Lou Taylor, professor of dress history at Brighton University. "It poses an important threat to couturiers if the under-25s grow up as impressed by a Hilfiger label as

As soon as a child is out of training pants, he or she is introduced to the world of labels. In this "soft" stage, the bait is usually Disney. The latest choices from Marks and Snencer include 101 Dalma-Batman and Superman. Mothderman, Rugrats, Lady and

.. and vou can't get away from it, says Jane Furnival

the Tramp, Thomas the Tank Engine and many others. Sport and skateboard cul-

ture starts at about age eight. By 10, socially you're nuffink without Nike. Label culture culminates in the sad, poor single mums who spend three weeks' child benefit on a pair of trainers for a child.

Perhaps the most hideous motif is the Lacoste crocodile. the daddy of all labels. Who wants a £60 cotton polo shirt with a crocodile on it? Loads of Loadsamoneys in Liverpool and Manchester, it seems.

"In four years, we've doubled our sales." says Peter Coulstock, Lacoste's sales director, "The crocodile doesn't mean 'you're buying a fashionable, expensive product' but 'it's the best quality'."

Really? So if buyers care about "quality", why do they pay £10 for a fake Lacoste? Hawkshead, a mail-order

company, is one of the few Tshirt companies that sell unnamed clothes. When I asked why they were so restrained. they confessed to putting their logo on some new T-shirts. "Putting a logo on it lifts something to a new sphere," rhap-sodises Paul Clarke, merchandising director.

The rip-off sphere, presumably. Ask any clothes company and they will say that their fashion is "customer led". But I have never heard customers begging to pay extra to be

moving billbourds. Dr Halla Beloff, an Edinburgh tians, the Hunchback of Notre social psychologist, "to demon-Dame, Buzz Lightyear. Taz. strate to their rivals that they can afford to spend more than saints of label-lovers are Harry from Sports Division.

Enfield and Kathy Burke's vulgar TV couple: "I couldn't help noticing that we have more money than you".

Wayne Hemingway, founder of the trendy British fashion house Red or Dead, refuses to put a plain logo on a white Tshirt. "Overpricing plain Tshirts with logos is immoral, he says. "We play around with our logo, put it into rude shapes or whatever."

Will there be an anti-label backlash? Tom Chapman, who sells branded names at his shop Matches in Wimbledon. says many customers ask for the name to be removed.

Pierre Cardin was the first to devalue himself by overfranchising his name. Couture companies, haunted by this, are actively looking for substitutes for labels. When Karl Lagerfeld took

over Chanel, he put a stop to the famous double-C logo which had come to mean "dead common". Instead, models in his most recent collection wore diamond camellias worth £10,000 each,

There's labels and labels. 'I'm proud of the fact that my kids don't want Armani on their arses," says Rita Britton. of Pollyanna in Barnsley. "My son will wear a sweater from me, but scour the second-hand shops for a £10 army jacket or an original Levi's jacket. So some labels are acceptable, as long as they're 30 years old.

Fashion victim labels: For men: Adidas track suit,

£49.99. Sports Division stores. For women: Moschino Cheap & Chic T-shirt, from £69: D&G jeans, £85: CK jumper, £85. All from Harvey Nichols, London

For both: Evisu jeans. £250. "They wear labels," thinks from Browns of South Molton Sircei, London Pollvanna. Barnsley, Yorkshire. Trainers: Nike Triax in beige leather, £49.99; Caterpillar Bold ercare offers Action Man. Spi-the clothes are worth." Patron in brown leather, £69.99. both



Under the counter N/S GSOH seeks busty blonde

single friend (who shall remain nameless), distraught at I the thought of turning 30 whilst still on the shelf, recently advertised herself in the personal pages. She wouldn't let me sec her self-description, which I imagine was wildly inaccu-

A gruelling couple of weeks then ensued, during which she met a succession of short, bald, fat, moustachioed, sweaty accountants, who had also been economical with the truth in their personal profiles.

After sharing Thai, Mon-golian, Indian, tapas, French and chicken McNuggets with the short list of candidates, she naturally felt a little confused, and was suffering from wicked heartburn. In the end she plumped for the tapas option (you can have as little or as much as you fancy) and chose lose, a 5ft 4in salsa instructor from Bal-

José was apparently eneretic in every field, but just a bit too short (even in his Cuban heels), so once she had mastered a mambo merengue and knew what espinacas con garbonzos were, she bid him adios, and reran her ad.

Ourious about whether she tionght she was a slim N/S with a GSOH, I purchased a copy of the paper on the day her ad was due to appear, and then wasted a whole morning mesmerised by the contents of the personal pages. Lonelies who do this often are obviously au fait with the jargon, but, for the novice, personals patois is somewhat confusing. Take Turkish businessman, 34, 6ft, black/blue" - is this man hideously bruised? Or. "Outgoing female, 5ft 4in, blonde-green" - a lonely

Women have three priorities when describing their ideal man: they want them "solvent", "professional", and "tall"; whereas men

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seek women who are "attractive", "intelligent" and into "long-lasting" relationships. Most women describe themselves as "attractive" and "blonde". but none describe themselves as either "solvent" or "honest". Men also see 'attractive' when they look in the mirror and twice as many men as women describe themselves as ing" or "adventurous". Where are all these unattached, caring hunks? In the Hebrides? The gorgeous, single blondes are, I imagine, off doing a spot of gold-

digging in their spare time. Snappy titles are supposed to tempt and attract: "Endless Possibilities" is a male who wants a woman of any age and any nationality, with view to marriage; "Free Tickets!" is all that a "caring classical music journalist has to offer, and "Ello, "Ello" is a "happy, adventurous policeman", who wants to feel more than just your collar. I don't think "Enfield Man" or "Of Course It Will Work" will have their diaries bulging next week, And I'd be wary of any man who seeks an "open-minded". "busty" or "uninhibited"

woman "for good time". After a long elimination process, I think I found my friend's ad: "Pretty female. 27, seeks, barrister for romance" - pretty is a matter of opinion, and 27 is a downright lie, but I know she's appearing in court for a speeding offence in two weeks' time, so her request is, I suppose, reasonably gen-

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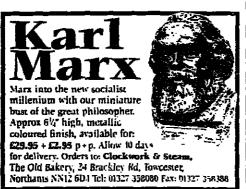
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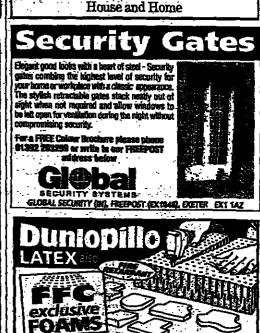
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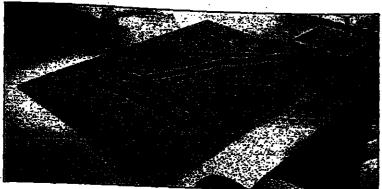
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Designer carpets are the latest word in interior decoration, writes Amicia De Moubray



revolution is taking place under-foot. Carpets are suddenly becoming de rigueur. Not fitted

carpets, you understand, but designer carpets, with a capital D. In a nation that is interior-decorating mad, it is curious that until recently carpets were largely ignored. Odd, when you con-

sider that carpets are often an integral part

of a room's overall appearance. I suspect it is because expertise in carpets is gener-ally regarded as esoteric, and best left to

Not since the Twenties has there been such a wide choice of rugs available by individual contemporary designers. "There has been a great deal more interest in the past year," says Christopher Farr, who has almost single-handedly been responsible for the contemporary true response. He

for the contemporary rug renaissance. He

began as an artist, became a dealer in Ori-

ental rugs, then turned to designing con-temporary rugs and is now a dealer in con-

temporary furniture, and has done much to encourage individual artists to design

"I realised that the supply of good ori-ental rugs was dwindling and that there was

a potential demand for a more modern product," he says. Gillian Ayres, Kate

Blee, Maxime de la Falaise, Josef Herman, Bill Jacklin and a couple of fashion lumi-naries. Romeo Gigli and Rifat Ozbek, are

just a few of an impressive list of designers working with Christopher Farr. The rugs

are made up by village craftswomen in

Konya, central Turkey, using handspun yarns, natural dyes, and traditional techniques of hand-knotted weaving. They are

modern rugs in the old traditional style. Just

because they are modern it doesn't mean

the rugs are confined to contemporary inte-

riors; they can look great with wonderful

old antiques. The exciting opportunities presented by commissioning designs from living artists and designers is beginning to

The Matt Collection, by the rug designer

Helen Yardley, a range of five rugs all costing less than £1,000 (two of them less than £500), was launched at 100% Design in

"I decided that there was a need for a

more affordable range of rugs," says Helen, the bulk of whose work is one-off com-

missions for architects and designers. Notable for their sophisticated colour

palettes, her Matt Collection rugs are

widely varied in appearance, but they all

show an intuitive understanding of form

and shape. They would look just as good

hanging on a wall. "Designing rugs is

really about how things are placed in a rect-angle. I do not want things to be expected."

She is a graduate of the Royal College of Art, and has been influenced by Henri Matisse, Robert Motherwell, Roger Hilton

British-born Christine Van Der Hurd, based in New York, is well known in

America for her exuberant and often vividly coloured designs. She exhibited a

collection of her rugs for the first time in

Europe at 100% Design last year. Enor-

mously diverse in style, many of her designs

show the influence of her original career

as a textile designer working in fashion and home furnishings for firms such as Mary Quant, BIBA, Liberty and Osborne & Lit-

tle. Amongst the most elegant of her rugs is "Tra la la", which depicts a curly, snaking

line framed by a wiggly border. "Day" is a

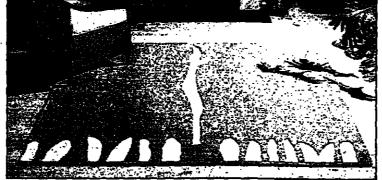
black line on a cream ground: "Night" is the reverse, a cream line on a black ground.

Other designs include a witty amalgam of

catch on."

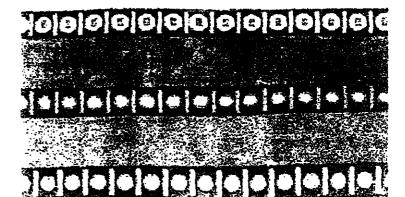
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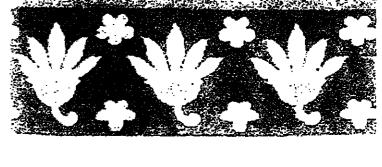
and Isamu Noguchi.



Christine Van der Hund has won a reputation for her berant and vivid designs, such as the Kasmir handknitted rug, right. She uses a variety of means of manufacture

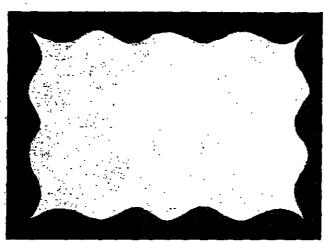
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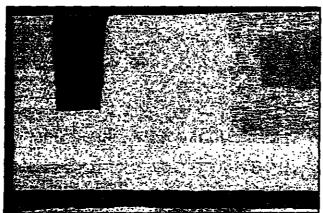




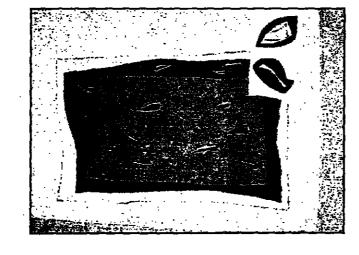


Artworks underfoot





One of the most influential forces behind the rennaissance of 'rug art' is designer Christopher Farr. He has realised that there is a demand for a more modern product made with traditional methods. are keen to work with him



influences from two contrasting sources, the architect and designer Gio Ponti, and the fashion designer Emilio_Pucci, entitled, unsurprisingly, "Ponti-Pucci". Apart from hand-tufting, Christine Van Der Hurd uses a variety of mans of manufacture, including hand-knotting, peedlepoint and overing hand-knotting, needlepoint and overtufted machine-made broadloom.

Another sign of the growing interest in rugs is that the Edinburgh Tapestry Company, which has an international reputation for its superb tapestries, has added rugs to its range. A group of leading contemporary artists and designers – including Elizabeth Blackadder, John Bellany, Sally Greaves-Lord, Leonard McComb and Kaffe Fassett have created a studio collection of rugs. Prices range from £1,500 to £2,300. Rugs can also be designed to clients' specifications. The rugs are made using a handtufting gun that "shoots" the yarn through a strong cloth with the design already drawn on to it stretched over a wooden frame. The rug is then latexed and covered with a hessian backing. Finally, a smooth finish is achieved with a shearing machine, likened by the artists to a lawnmower.

JAB, a German firm well known in this country for its furnishing fabrics, has been making modern designer rugs since 1974. but has only recently decided to sell them in the British Isles. The Design Edition is a mixture of hand-tufted and woven rugs. some intriguingly inlaid with strips of leather, or copper and silver discs.

If you are after something more traditional, Liberty's rug department always has more than 3,000 rugs in stock, at prices from £25,000 to £60,000. The department is awash with rugs, in piles, hanging from the wall and scattered across the floor. "I want it to look a bit wrecked. like a true Oriental bazaar's. People mustn't be put off," says Ron Stewart, the buyer. "We turn over all the stock at least once a year." Mr Stewart makes frequent buying trips to Pakistan, India. Iran and Russia. "Iran and Afghanistan are our two main areas, because they offer the biggest variety and are the most interesting in terms of old and new traditional designs," he says. "People tend to associate us with traditional designs but I believe we should be more innovative, and we hope to be introducing a new range of carpets based on Japanese textile prints later this year. We sell to a huge range of customers from students to OAPs. We can arrange for one-off commissions which can take anything between four months to a year to execute. When trying to advise customers we begin by asking a few standart preliminary questions to try to narrow down their requirements. For instance: is it going to take a real pounding? What shape is the room? And so on. My advice is always: "Buy what you like; never skimp; and buy a bigger one, because it seems cheaper."

Christopher Fart, 115 Regent's Park Road. London NWI (0171-916 7690); also at 212 Westbourne Grove, London W11. The Matt Collection by Helen Yardley, A-Z Studios, 3-5 Hardwidge Street. London SE1

(0171-403 7114). Christine Van Der Hurd (0171-584 3064). The Edinburgh Tapestry Company, Dovecot Studios, 2 Dovecot Road, Edinburgh (0131-

Liberty. Regent Street, London W1 (0171-734 1234).

Design Edition by JAB is available from John Charles Interiors, Birmingham (0121-120 3977); Castle Curtains, Foxrock, Co Dublin (00353 1 295 5100) and James Archibald, Aberdeen (01221 596181).

Wheat joins the gravy train

Sheila Prophet ruminates on the latest substitutes for meat

cat is off the menu in millions of British households because children are simply refusing to eat it. A survey released last week by the Vegetarian Society revealed that one in five families now has a child aged between four and 11 who is, in the industry jargon, a meat avoider, refusing to eat three or more kinds of meat. Beef is the least acceptable of all, with 38 per cent of children refusing to eat it.

It is statistics like these that have persuaded food companies to spend millions of pounds developing substitutes, or meat analogues as they are called in the trade. The market in meat-free meals is worth

£100m a year and is growing steadily. Household names such as Birds Eye are treating it very seriously, after their research showed more than 50 per cent of us now have two to three meat-free meals per week. The company has produced a range of mainstream meals aimed squarely at families, with meat free sausages proving the best-seller, and griffs and burgers also doing well. Ross Foods has had similar success with the Linda McCartney range of meals such as shepherd's pies and lasagnas.

It has taken years of research to produce substitutes that look, taste, and perhaps most important, feel just like the real thing. But despite the growing choice of foods on offer, the companies all use the same basic material, vegetable protein, which is currently produced from four plants - soya, peas, wheat and a fungus closely related to the mushroom.

able in the west for the last 30. Tofu is produced by soaking, crushing and heating soya beans, the seeds of the soya plant. to produce soya milk, which is then coagulated and pressed into a curd. Cauldron Foods, the largest producer of tofu in Britain says sales have risen by 25 per cent year on year and says the BSE scare has given it a big boost.

Textured vegetable protein (TVP) is made by grinding soya beans into flour, which is processed and dried to produce a sponge-like substance which can be given a meaty flavour.

Arrum is a mixture of pea and wheat protein, which has made a successful entry by being chosen both by Birds Eye and Ross Foods as an ingredient in their ready meals. Lucas Ingredients, the company which has produced and patented it, says the key to its success is its chewability.

We looked into exactly what happens to the human mouth when it chews food, and we found in Arrum a product that is very close to meat, with six chews to a bite," explains Lucas Ingredients' David Rowland: "The brain receives similar feedback when eating Arrum to that when eating meat." That gives Arrum an edge over competitors, which can take up to 12 chews per bite, he says.

Arrum cannot yet be bought on its own, but that is to change over the next year. Ouorn is already is a household name. It is produced from a tiny fungus called tional benefits of lupins.

The soya products are the longest established, having been used in the east for thousands of years, and widely availing the soya products are the longest fields around Marlow. Buckinghamshire, in the 1960s by scientists seeking a new protein source. The fungus is fermented in huge tanks in a mixture of oxygen, glucose, nitrogen and minerals to produce myco-protein, a pale yellow dough-like substance which is then flavoured, textured and mixed with egg-white, without which it would fall apart when cooked.

The public certainly likes it, but not everyone is completely happy with Quorn. The Vegetarian Society says that, reluctantly, it is unable to approve it because the eggs are not free-range. Marlow Foods says that is because it cannot find a large enough supply of freerange eggs and it hopes to resolve the

Anyway, vegetarians are not the companies' primary targets. They are already converted. The companies have bigger markets in mind.

Vegetable proteins are the perfect products for the Nineties. Not only are they "guilt-free", they are also high in protein and low in fat, calories and cholesterol. And they do not have associations with horrors like mad cow disease or

The food companies are confident this market will grow in years ahead and research is continuing into new sources of meat-free food. If you thought Quorn sounded like science fiction, wait till you see what they are cooking up now. The latest research is examining the nutri-

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Also available in 1.5 litre bottles

Something about your person

Don't forget your passport, ticket, guide book ... or your luggage. As travel editor Simon Calder discovers, the students of Central St Martins have proved you can travel light - and with style

he sign at Heathrow was uncompromising: "Only one piece of hand luggage per passenger. I had five. I got through, though not until a curious security guard had examined each item as though he hadn't seen anything like it. Which he hadn't - because a set of unique designs was getting a first road test. Fortunately, the handful of hand baggage had been specially designed by students at the Central St Martins

School of Art to be discreet. They had been created at the behest of STA Travel, which challenged some of Britain's brightest young designers to produce the "ultimate travel accessory". Janet Lance-Hughes, fashion tutor at Central St Martins, selected the five finalists that appear here. And my mission was to take them on a test run to Amsterdam.

Over a long weekend, I tested them out among the dodgy dives of Amsterdam (and Heathrow) via planes, trains and hikes, finishing up at the tea room of the fancy Kurhaus Hotel on the seafront at Schveningen. To try to make the selection process scientific, each design was evaluated on several criteria, as follows:

Style - who would this most suit?. Comfort - for how long would you be prepared to walk through the jungle with the item?. Security - starting at Kennedy airport in New York. how quickly would your possessions disappear? And an advertising slogan was devised for each. My fellow judges were Dick Porter, chief executive of STA Travel Worldwide, and the international product designer Ross Lovegrove. All the products deserve commercial success, but we agreed unanimously that Rachel Atkinson's body band was the clear winner. Her prize is a weekend in New York.

Pocket Pack

You can locate it anywhere you like, and apply it with the sewing kit supplied. But the designer, Becky Dudley, had kindly provided a T-shirt with the pocket already discreetly tacked to the lower part of the

These are the accessories:

Style - best person to use it? Sarah Ferguson, who could keep her jewellery safe rather than checking it in.

Comfort - how long in the jungle? In the swamp of Amsterdam's red light zone, an hour was quite enough.

Security - how easily nicked? Only by a dancing partner. Slogan - "You can't pick a

hetter pocket."

Travel Trousers These appear to be an ordinary pair of Chinos. The trick to Gisle Mardae's design is a deep but hard-to-reach pocket inside the thigh. But the operation necessary to reach for your Guilders in order to pay the daintily dressed tea room waitress is impossible to do without everyone tutting at a sleek, understated design

> Office, Manchester, M16 9HY We deliver to addresses in the LIK early

Style - best person to use passport, ticket, money, map. them? Michael Palin

Comfort - how long in the jungle? All week (and the trousers help keep leeches

Security - how easily nicked in New York? Only in a situation of considerable intimacy. Slogan - "Is that a hidden pocket in your trousers or?"

Front-loading Apron Bag You could spend all weekend using Amy Walton's intriguing construction simply as a shoul-

der bag. Made ruggedly of low-visibility canvas, it has a pocket for almost anything. Travelling photographers will find its neat selection of pockets useful - especially when



Try the travel trousers...



or the nifty pocket pack



... or even the sling bag

unfolded into "apron" mode. You hook a handle over each shoulder, and the bag opens out in front of you. Style - best person to use it?

Keith Floyd Comfort - how long in the jungle? All day, though those leeches could lurk in pockets. Security - how easily nicked in New York? The apron could stay on for ever, but individual

in the secret pocket. Slogan - "From Turkey to Table Mountain, the perfect travelling companion for a

items are at risk unless stored

Sling Bag Going to a cocktail party in Norway? This one's for you. Chris Steele has come up with

era – while retaining its comfortable curves in black leather. Ideal, then, for attending the embassy event in Oslo; this stylish accessory marks you out as a sophisticate. The streets in the Norwegian capital are not lined prospective bagsnatchers. In most other parts of the world though, a baddie

guide book and compact cam-

out as an easy target. Style - best person to use it? His Excellency Mark Elliott HM Ambassador to Norway. Comfort - how long in the jungle? Only in the dry season: the monsoon would ruin the

would have your bag marked

leather in seconds. Security - how easily nicked in New York? Don't blink. Slogan - "This one's just a decoy, honest."

Body Band When I hear the word fashion, I reach for my anorak. But the potential for Rachel Atkinson's supremely simple design to become the fashion accessory for the summer is clear even to a dismal dresser like me. For years, some hardy travellers have used folds of elastic bandage to carry valuables. The difference with Ms Atkinson's armband is that it is custom-built to give easy access for you to reach your valuables, while keeping them

safe from wayward hands. Wear this fold of Lycra on the upper arm for ostentation or the lower leg for discretion. Style - best person to use it? anyone from Swampy to Naomi Campbell.

Comfort - how long in the jungle? All year. The Band is durable, lightweight and bright, handy for scaring off

Security - how easily nicked in New York? The biggest risk is that you could become a fashion victim, robbed for the armband itself rather than what it contains. Slogan - two choices: "For-

get hand luggage - take arm luggage." Or "Out of arm's

Competition: Arm yourself for

Rachel Atkinson's design is already hot property - but you can be one of the first to own it. The Independent, STA Travel and Central St Martin's have commissioned 10 armbands for the winners of our

arm-twisting competition. To enter, all you need to do is to come up with an intriguing or entertaining addition to the bare minimum required for foreign travel - passport. ticket, money. Tell us in 50 words or less what you take. and why.

The writers of the 10 best entries will receive an armband. Send your entry to Essentials, Travel Desk, The Independent. One Canada Square. London E145DL; or fax it to 0171-293 2451; or email it to travel@independent.co.uk. The closing date is Friday, 4 April.



Luggage at large: Young doc, Donald Sinden, with the kind of overload loved of Fifties' travellers and movieland wanderers

Dyed in the wool elegance



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middle of a field of cows is not a usual sight in the hilly farmland of Perthshire. However, a local farmer was with a touch of

quick to recognise them as mail order travellers in search of The Gle- mail order nalmond Tweed Company whose shop at Culnacloich tweed, writes rarm about 10 miles north of Crieff is well known in the Fiona MacAulay region for attracting far-flung-

Andrew and Sally St John Tweed Company in 1992. They sell beautifully made bags in brightly coloured and chequered Harris tweed with bridle leather straps and bindings, and solid brass fittings. The large selection includes a rucksack, two sizes of holdall and four of tote bag.

The tweed is bonded with a

rubberised solution on to cotton canvas to make it waterproof, though one of the qualities of Harris tweed is that it repels water, because of its density and the natural oils in the wool. There is also a clothes range - mainly waistcoats, jackets and coats.

The designs and colours of self in Glenalmond products. but the styling is also good. A long waistcoat with a Nehru collar and a reversible tweed and leather jerkin were my favourites. A finishing touch is the stag-horn buttons used on all the clothes.

Three Japanese men in You can carry it



how well the beauty of Harris tweed complements modern design shapes. After all, British designers, in particular Vivienne Westwood and Paul Smith, have already shown how the materials alone are reason successfully tweed and tartan enough to want to swathe your- can be married with contemporary design ideas.

Michiko's range comes in the more subtle shades of Harris tweed - black, cream. greys and browns - and her designs are simple and wellcut. They include a reefer jacket and a quilted duffel coat for men and a double

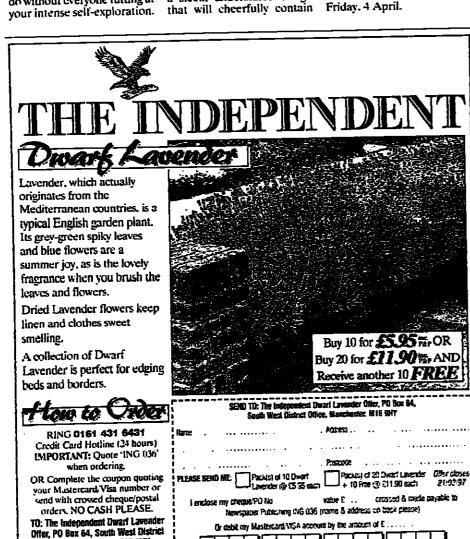
just wasn't used to modern materials!" The St Johns have been vis-

iting Harris for 14 years and are obviously in love with the place. They look forward enormously to their twice-yearly buying trips. They first went there after being shipwrecked on a trip to St Kilda and began a long relationship with a group of the island's weavers. They are incredibly supportive about our business but all they are really interested in is the well-being of our flock of sheep; that's the between us!"

Although the wool is now spun, dyed and finished by machine it is still woven by weavers in their own homes and so its production is literally a cottage industry. It is immediately recognisable by its weight and thick texture and for its amazing blending of colours which reflect the Hebridean landscape.

In the Glenalmond shop the St Johns also stock a selection of tweed to be sold by the metre. These include cloth made by Joan Maclennan, one of the few weavers who still uses the old wooden loom instead of the more modern Hattersley loom. She is one of the small group of weavers who use vegetable dyes made from indigenous plants. Elderberries for purple, indigo for blue, ragwort flowers and heather tips for yellow - the natural palette is extensive, as one can see from a close look her fabrics. The tradition of Harris tweed-making is steeped in ritual and folklore. The final part of the process used to be the blessing of the tweed: "Mayest thou enjoy it. Mayest thou wear it, Mayest thou finish it. Until thou find it in shreds, in strips, in rags, in tatters!" The Glenalmond Tweed Company brings us this

> The Glenalmond Tweed -Company, Culnacloich, Glenal-Perih PH1 3SN. Telephone 01738 880322 for a catalogue or local stockist.





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motoring

Road Test: Mazda 323 By John Simister

alf-close your eyes, and you could be looking at an Audi A3. Similar size, similar squared-off tail with big, upright rear lights, similar lack of visual clutter: already, Mazda's new 323 hatchback is having an unexpectedly positive effort ing an unexpectedly positive effect

on your expectations.

The effect is unexpected because Mazda's mainstream cars have not hitherto been noted for their ability to excite. Not that recent 323s have been wilfully bland, far from it the five-door version is futuristic-looking device, and the just-axed three-door was certainly distinctive, with its undersized wheels and curious double-decker rear window. But dis-tinction did not lead to desire, and few found buyers. So it had to go.

In its place comes the car you see here, effectively the front half of the least interesting 323 (the four-door saloon, recently chopped from the range but now reinstated) with a new aft end. There's a choice of two 16-valve engines, a 1.3-litre or a more powerful 1.5 with twin camshafts, and two trim levels, LXi and GXi. The 'i' signifies fuel injection, as ever, but as every car has injection nowadays, it does seem superfluous.

That's marketing for you.

Talking of which, you will probably have noticed Mazda's poster campaign for these latest 323s. The ads use strange typefaces and equally strange assertions, likening a Volkswagen Golf to a square box but the no more curvaceous 323 to radio is banished to a slot much a pebble. The effect is other- lower down, where its fiddly

Almost, but not

worldly and rather daft, as though the result of a long night on the magic mushrooms. Still, the optional three-spoke alloy wheels

look quite daring.
Unfortunately, the visual as soon as you sit in the Mazda. There is nothing interesting about the cabin at all, and no designbased clues as to the make of car you're about to drive. Grey plastics abound, the dials are utilitarian. and there's a pointless panel high up in the middle of the dashboard containing just a clock and the heated rear window switch. Yet the

controls are hard to see, never mind use. Panel and radio should be transposed forthwith.

If your first drive is in stop-start traffic, you'll straight away encounter a trait increasingly compromise of the outside evaporates mon in Japanese cars: snatchy progress caused by over-flexible engine mountings and an anaes-thetised clutch. You can't feel the drive being taken up as you raise the pedal; all you have to go on is the fact that the engine speed is dropping and the car is starting to move.

With the 1.5-litre, 90bhp engine. the 323 pulls reasonably vigorously through the gears and cruises easily, if noisily. There's a lot of road roar and body resonance at motorway All dressed up: Mazda's competent new 323 hatch does not live up to its fanciful advertising image. The interior only disappoints

speeds. Should you so desire, you can enjoy the Mazda's strong roadholding and easy, agile handling: it steers crisply (although the powerassisted system gives little in the way of feedback to the driver) and keeps the movements of its body under tight control so your passengers won't be thrown about. Surprisingly, it also rides smoothly over bumps even on the low-profile tyres that come with the alloy wheels.

Cabin space is adequate, so is boot space, and there's adequate equipment in the £12,360 model. including electric front windows, a sunroof and the obligatory pair of airbags. The car is also adequately well made, has a three-year

warranty, and it probably won't go wrong. What it is not, however, is the glamorous, personality-extending. lifestyle-enhancing fashion accessory the ads would like you to believe. Its demeanour and interior decor are far too meek and colourless for that.

There's a school of thought that says all cars are pretty much the same nowadays, and it's only the branding and the image arising therefrom that differentiates them. I'm pleased to say that while we may be heading in that direction, we're not there yet. This Mazda, entirely adequate but eminently forgettable. is proof that you can't build a set of "brand values" on thin air.

MAZDA:323EHATCHBACK:

Specifications 3 2 2

Price: £12,560 on the road. Engine: 1,489ec, four cylinders, 16 valves, 90bhp at 5,500rpm: five-speed gearbox, tront-wheel drive. Topspeed: 109mph. (460 in 11.6sec. Fuel consumption: 33-38mpg Rivals

Ford Escort 1.6 LX three-door. £12,930 on the road: Ford owns most of the Mazda company, but its own Escort is better designed. and better to drive.

Honda Civic 1.5 LS three-door. £13.585 on the road: Best Japanese rival. Has more spirit than the less appeal.

Mazda and a much more welcoming cubin. Fiat Bravo 1.6 SX, £12,065; Current European Car of the Year. progressive styling tun to drive, lumpy ride, good value. Peugeot 306 1.6 XS. £12.835 on

the road: Best ride and handling blend in the size class, goodlooking and good value. Facelift imminent.

Volkswagen Golf 1.6 CL five-door. £12.425 on the road: No sporty three doors at this price, but CL has usual Golf substance and class-

A class apart: the cream of the used-car lot

The days are longer. the weather warmer and, above all, the showrooms and forecourts of the nation are getting busier. It's that time of the year when the motor trade gets excited as used-car buyers emerge from winter hibernation. Trouble is, the usedcar market has never been bigger, busier or more confusing. So here is our guide to the most affordable and sensible cars in their class – used cars that will hold their value, be utterly reliable and yet still be interesting to own and exhilarating to drive ...

Fiat Punto. Once upon a time a Fiat only made sense as a used buy because it was cheap. Unfortunately they were also unre-liable, Not so the Punto which, on its 1994 launch, was acclaimed as a thoroughly modern small batchback. Three years on these early cars are still solid and fault-free, fun to drive and, in SX form, well equipped. Prices start at just over £3,000 for a high mileage 55 S, but £5,000 buys a 1994 75 SX, or a 55 S 5-door. Runners up - Renault Clio, Nissan Micra.

BMW 318. The 3 series has been the exec-

tive benchmark for the past decade. The

318 is fun to drive, has a comfortable inte-

rior, but cramped rear seating, and has con-

tainable running costs. Early examples suf-

fered build quality problems, which have

since been ironed out. It is now possible to

taggle for the yuppies' old favourite: £7,000

buys a 1991 example with a high mileage. An SE from 1993 will be £10,000 and a '95

automatic £15,000. Runners up: Mercedes

Renault 19. The 19 looks uninspiring and performance is average, but that is not the point. In the highly competitive hatchback market, owners want a reliable slogger, and the 19 is it. The car's lack of charisma has dented values - making them great bargains, especially as the revised Phase 11 models were well equipped and better built. Prices for the later Phase 11 models is £3,000, £4,000 for a 1993 RL and £6,000 for a '94 RT. Runners up: Citroen ZX, Volk-

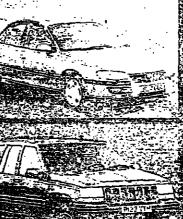


Mercedes 300 Series. There are cheaper. better equipped and faster luxury cars, but none have the three-pointed star on the bonnet. What is now the E class was once the 200/300 Series - arguably the best saloon they ever built. The body styling is ageless, which it has to be because a 300 can last well into the next millennium. The arrival of the new model has helped to depreciate prices to affordable levels: 300Es start at just under £8,000 for an '87 model to £17,000 for a '92. Runners up: BMW 7 Series, Jaguar X14.0. Ford Mondeo. You might hate reps as they hog the motorway centre lane, but if it wasn't for them you would not have great cars like the Mondeo. It is refined, the engines are strong and the interior very comfortable. The bottom line is cheap prices because of oversupply to company fleets. Add to that the fact there is a Ford dealer on every corner and buyers can't go wrong. Prices start at £4,000 for the 1.6; £5,000 for a '94 L8LX. or £6,000 for a 20i GLX. Runners up: Nissan Primera, Citroen Xantia.



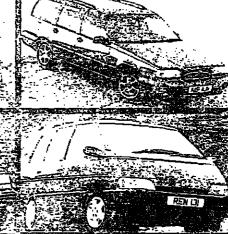
Mazda MX5. This is the car that triggered the roadster revival and it's still going strong. Like British sports cars of old, it is full of character and fun ... but it won't break down. Demand always outstrips supply, so prices are very firm, making it almost a blue-chip investment: the beauty is that once you have had your fun it will be easy to re-sell. Prices don't go lower than £8,000 for a seven-year-old example, up to about £12,000 for a '94 model, Runners up: Volkswagen Corrado, Porsche 944.

Vauxhall Omega. This is BMW and Mercedes big-car comfort and build quality at Vauxhall prices, Big cars don't come much roomier than this: the boot is huge and the seats very comfortable. For those that can afford it, the Vo versions have a useful amount of performance. Because this is a company fleet favourite there are lots around and the prices are reasonable: £7,000 is the starting point for a '94 2.0 GLS. £8,000 for the CD version 2.5 Vo at £9,000. Runners up: Ford Granada, Rover 800.



Chrysler Cherokee. This is the tour-wheel drive which has taken the UK by storm and it is easy to see why. The Cherokee is small in off-road forms and, with a 4.0 litre engine. is no slug on the tarmac. High levels of equipment and ear-like performance have endeared it to thousands. Build quality and reliability so far have proved to be excellent. Used prices are therefore high. The 25 litre-engined Cherokee starts at £10,000; 4.0 litre at £12,000, Diesel £14,000, Runners up; Mitsubishi Shogun, Isuzu Trooper,

Volvo 850. Could there be any other estate but a Volvo? Well yes, every manufacturer has caught up, but Volvo has always understood that you need a low, that cargo deck and huge load capacity. The 850 is all that plus personality - a Volvo first. This is no tank, but a charismatic and quick estate which is not cheap to buy used, but you can be confident it will last forever. Although costly, the quality of the cars will be very high. Prices start at £10,000 for a 993 example, £12,000 for a GLT from '94. Runners up: Vauxhall Carlton, Citroen BX.



Renault Espace. The original people carrier is still the best. A very spilish package which does not drive or look like a van. With all the seats occupied, luggage space is limited and Renault build quality always slightly suspect, but overall a reliable and desirable vehicle. The revised model from 1991 is the best. Because everyone wants an Espace there are some bargains among the RXE models. Arrival of the new Espace will make the old one a touch cheaper. starting at £8,000 for an RN. Runners up: Mitsubishi Spacewagon, Toyota Previa.

otor racing improves road-cars, or so the car companies will tell you. Sure. And digarette smoking makes you hunky, wear Calvin Kleins and you'll look like Kate Moss, and Michael Schumacher wears an Omega so they must be great watches. In fact, car companies go motor racing for the same reason that they bire Nicole, Nigel Havers and swanky advertising agencies: to flog cars. As proof. those car makers who produce formula one racing engines (Renault, Peugeot, Mercedes,

Ford) generally make the least refined road-car engines. Yamaha on the other hand, can't seem to make an F1 engine capable of powering Damon Hill around a single lap. Yet its motorbike engines are fabulous. Go figure it.

Yet, unusually, the recent Australian GP in Melbourne did come up with a solution to arguably the greatest of all problems facing the motor car. It was nothing to do with carbon fibre brakes or advanced aerodynamics; on fact, it had nothing to do with the action



No car park at a grand prix? Melbourne did without it. By Gavin Green

way they solved the thorny problem of traffic congestion. Normally, at a GP meeting, you take more time trying to get into and out of a circuit than you do watching the action. It's like a microcosm of peak-hour traffic in any big

on the track at all. It was the

British city, but worse. The Melbourne organisers decided not to have any car parking at all near the circuit. The roads around the Albert Park track, only a mile or so from the city centre, were blissfully uncongested. Instead, if you wanted to go to the races ~ and 290,000 people did, over the three-day meeting - you had to go by train, tram (Melbourne has a good streetcar network), bus, taxi or chauffeur-driven limo.

Visitors got into and out of the circuit quickly and easily. The various forms of public transport were organised to complement each other. Trains ferried people from around the city (and the country) to meeting-points nearer the cir-cuit, from where trams and buses whisked them to the track. Melbourne pioneered such a system for its GP last

year, and it worked a treat. wasn't quite so good. In a ting to and from a grand prix.

nasty piece of old-fashioned union opportunism the tram and train drivers decided to call a quick strike on the Saturday and Sunday. Instead, extra buses (which in Melbourne are privatised) were drafted in, to fill the void. As a boon, they were free - the organisers picked up the tab. They did a spectacularly good job, even if the eventual attendance for the meeting was 110,000 shy of last year's total.

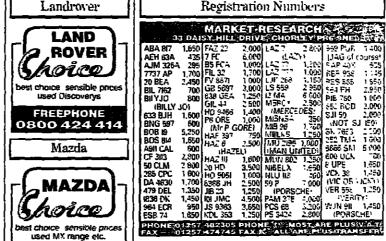
In Britain, a "no car park" olicy would be unthinkable at major sporting event. Yet Melbourne showed it can work as long as the public transport alternative is good enough. (And, to be fair, most British cities have public transport at least as good as Mei-

Equally, such a policy would be unthinkable in British cities. although some councils are encouraging fewer car parking spots at new office buildings. We rabbit on about ways to reduce traffic congestion in our great conurbations - and then we let NCP and the like build more and more car parks. No car parks mean fewer cars. just as assuredly as no junk food means fewer fatties.

In the bit of central London where I work, there are at least six major car parks within a one-mile radius of my office. and many smaller ones. They attract commuters like magnets. New ones open regularly.

Of course, cars are sometimes the best way of getting about. But not when commuting into cities at peak hours from the suburbs, or - perhaps This year, unfortunately. it more surprisingly - when get-

motoring Registration Numbers



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It's home, c'est chez

Penny Jackson gives good advice on buying in northern France

I prefer the feel of a small town with

its classic square. The elderly lady

Vivian Bridge of North & West

France Properties says that inland,

apart from the the walled city of Mon-

treuil, the prettiest areas are the val-

leys south of Hesdin, the market

town in the heart of the Pas de

Calais. Here, a structurally sound,

whitewashed house, with orange pan-

tile roof, running water and electricity, in about half an acre with out-

buildings can be bought for about

£17.000. Done up nicely it would be

closer to £30,000. The strength of the

pound and the fact that France is still

in recession can blind some people to

the hidden expenses of buying a

property that needs a lot of work.

During the rush to buy French homes

in the Eighties, many people bought

any looking after."

There has been an advertise- Touquet, eight years ago. "I manage ment running in The Specta- to get over for a weekend about every fortnight in the summer. for recently that goes something like this: smelly old There's nothing like waking up on a place, riddled with damp, belonging to a pig farmer, wonderful views. Part Saturday morning to the sound of church bells, its like being in a comexe-catching gimmick certainly, but as the advertisers know, potential is all when it comes to the English buying in France.

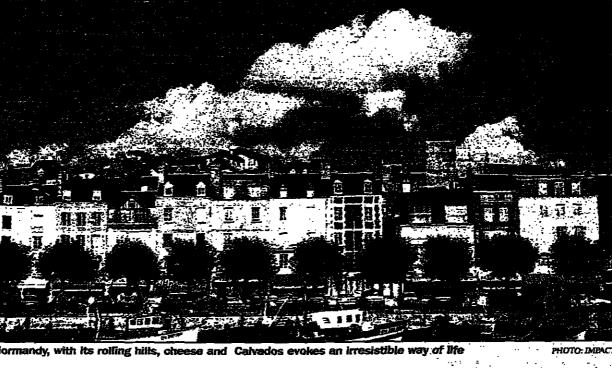
pletely different world and if Le Shuttle is running properly it's just three hours from London.

A keen golfer he has, he says, fabulous courses close by . "Le Touquet is fun but I'm glad I didn't buy there.

They are not seduced by the manageable and modern but by picturesque outcasts. Rundown cottages, derelict barns, neglected manor houses all have their British next door pops in to air the house white knights. There was a lull durand apart from that it doesn't need ing the recession but the appetite for French second homes is growing again, made all the more tempting this time by the Channel Tunnel and Le Shuttle as well as the competitive ferry services. A second home in northern France has a real chance of being just that.

If attention and money are to be lavished on a property, it makes sense that it should be within easy reach of the coast and a weekend away. For that reason the Pas de Calais, more open and not as attrac-tive as Normandy and Brittany, has the singular advantage of bringing a second home within about a 45minute drive from Calais.

Paul Woodhouse bought his twoup, two-down terrace house in Etaples, a small fishing town outside Le old places cheaply and then found



they could not afford to do them up. Maurice Lazarus of Domus Abroad, who sells only British-owned properties, finds that their restoration work is to a higher standard than is usual

But David King of Hamptons International says that many British owners got their fingers burnt. They tended to gentrify in a way that did not appeal to the French, who not only were uninterested in restored rural cottages but could not afford the prices any way. When the UK market collapsed they were left with nowhere to turn. The glut of homes for sale has seen Hamptons retreat from northern France for the time being. Normandy, with its rolling hills, cheese and Calvados evokes a way of life that we, the British, find irresistible. No longer able to find the perfect combination of a period home in need of restoration, on the edge of a village with some land anywhere this side of the channel, France offers what Britain cannot.

Tony and Junko Fowle, who have a house in a small town on the Cherbourg Peninsula, describe it as stepping back 40 years. "It is so peaceful, the world seems to stop. There isn't the hassle there. The quality of life, whether the food or the way people live, makes it difficult

Sauveur le Vicomte on Black Wednesday, when the pound plummeted. "We paid £30,000 and lost £4,000 on the exchange rate. But we have no regrets. We come over on the night ferry about every month for a few days," says Eric Fowle. As antique dealers, they have no difficulty in furnishing the solid threebedroom house, which once belonged to the mayor. "We would like to move here permanently when we retire." They are not alone. The numbers of British looking to run their business from France or to part-retire there are increasing. Penny Zoldan of Latitudes says the half-timbered colombage and brick houses particularly in the Seine Mar-time region of Normandy are very popular. The Dieppe area has lovely architecture and with the new motorway it is no more than an hour and a half from the tunnel. A typical long colombage in good order would be in the region of £40,000 and £60,000. If it needs work then downwards from £30,000. They tend to sell

Some owners choose to bring over teams of British workmen to restore houses, which can, says Penny Zoldan, cause some resentment. "Don't leave your common sense behind, but tradesmen are less to leave." It was not an an auspicious start though. They bought in St very locally." Trouble is, they prob-

ably regard anyone buying some-thing like an old pig-shed as being short of more than common sense. For further information call North & West France Properties: 0181-891. 1750; Latitudes: 0181-958 5485; Domus Abroad: 0171-431 4692 .

Houses shown (right, top to bottom)

Pas de Calais: North & West France Properties

A country house in gardens of a third of an acre near the market town of Hesdin in the Authie valley. The house, with bread oven and a cellar, has two bedrooms plus one in the attic which has been only partly converted. Price (F Fr) 480000

(£53,333).

Detached cottage in reasonable condition with outbuildings and generous land in a village between Frevent and Auxi Le Chateau, about 45 km from the coast. Price (F Fr 240000 (£26,000).

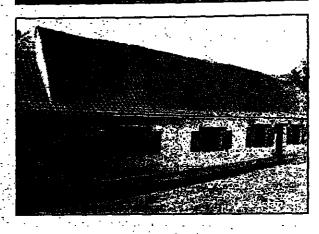
A three bedroom house in an enclosed courtyard with converted outbuildings. It has an acre of gar-den and fields and is an hour from Calais in the Authie Valley. Price F Fr 550000 (£61,000).

A country house overlooking the Canche Valley in a wooded garden. It has three bedrooms, two bathrooms, cellar, attic and garages. Price (F Fr) 720000 (£80,000).



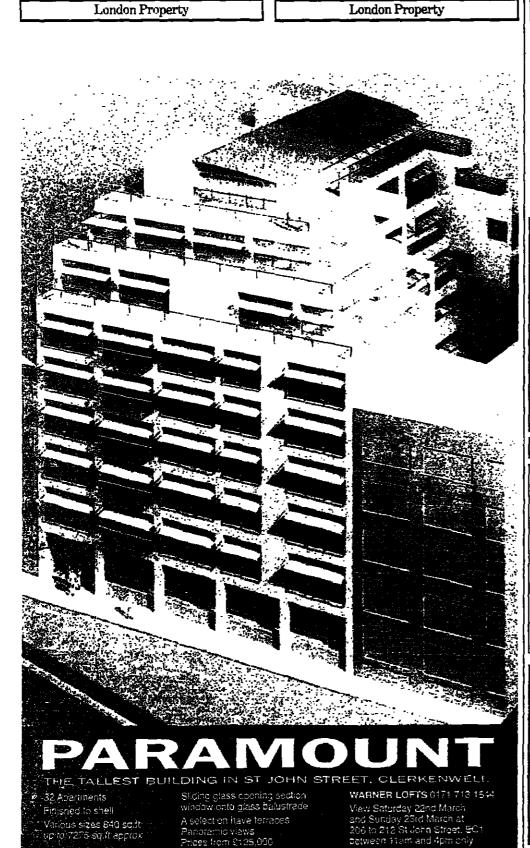






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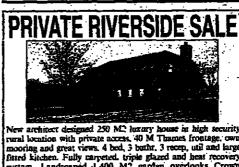
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Buyers who rush to ruins

Rosalind Russell on the irresistible appeal of a derelict property



Interest in Stone Farm, Kent (above), has been Intense - despite the house being virtually uninhabitable. Below: Clifton House, Timberland, Lincoln

s house prices spiral, supply dries up and demand increases, why not consider somewhere pleasing, picturesque ... and falling to pieces.

You may find the price appealing, but beware the words "scope for improvement". They should sound loud warning bells in the ears of buyers with limited funds.

A Grade II listed six-bedroom Georgian house for £42,500? Sounds too good to be true. Well, it is true. But when the estate agent says it's in a time warp, he's not joking. Clifton House has barely been touched in 200 years, apart from having electric wiring installed around 1900.

Standing in large gardens near Lin-coln, it has classical proportions, four reception rooms, the original roof tiles and cast-iron guttering - and dry rot, wet rot, mould and subsidence. The kitchen is currently partitioned to include a bathroom, from which a ladder leads to a first-floor room. There is no heating, and the windows are falling out because the putty is Georgian, too, The brick floors are worn into gullies, showing where genera-

tions have walked from room to room. Clifton is also the subject of a local authority closing order, which means a buyer must comply with a schedule of works prepared by the council and in line with listed building regulations.

"It will need the whole front taking down and rebuilt," says Christopher Dew, who is buying it. "It has rotated, turning slightly forward, and will need underpinning. Rainwater has been running into the footings for a long

tion is the only cure. All the bricks will have to be kept and numbered. The internal plasterwork has been infected

with mould and dry rot."

time, so taking down the front eleva- Bay in Kent, is still a historic ruin the sea and commutable to London. There is a strong demand for cottages despite the best efforts of its owners, destroyed by fire during the First World War, and little more than a tur-Dew is not a dreamer. He is a build- ret, a tower and a couple of walls are

opened its grounds to the public in

Trees and shrubs were removed from

the ruins. The garden was replanted,

was restored, as was a two-bedroom

ing surveyor, which gives him a head left of the grand country house which start over anyone else who might imagine they could nurse Clifton back to health. Work on the house is likely to cost £100,000. At the end of the day, will it be worth more than £142,500?

"I certainly hope so," says Dew. But half-finished projects dotted around the country bear witness to restorers defeated by houses that proved to be a dream too far.

cottage in the grounds.
"We fell in love with it," explains Oxney Court, near St Margaret's

We love it here, and it will be hideous who bought it three years ago. It was to leave."

Planning consent has finally been ranted for rebuilding the house, but Kim is now taking up an offer to work in Chile. "I just can't afford to do both," he says, "as reconstructing Oxney Court is likely to cost around £500,000. But I wouldn't be frightened to take on a project like this again." Cluttons are looking for a buyer

with 250 guineas (£262,500). Less daunting is a Victorian Grade II listed house in the middle of Saffron Walden, recently offered for sale by the East Anglian agents Bruce Munro, who were almost knocked over in the rush to view. The redbrick cottage hasn't been touched for about 30 years. It has gaps in the roof tiles, is damp, needs rewiring and could do with a modern kitchen and bathroom. The old fireplaces have been boarded up and it stands on a busy road, with nowhere to park a car. However, the £75,000 asking price

drew 17 couples in the space of two weeks before it was snapped up. We're still getting calls about it now," says the agent.

And agent Christopher Blount says 1851. The owners spent two years that Garden Cottage, a three-bedapplying for approval to restore it. room Cotswold stone property three miles from Malmesbury, sold after a week, at well above the asking price of £120,000. following the original plans. An apiary "It created more interest than any-

thing else we've sold recently," he says. "It went to 'best and final offers' with Australian-born Kim Pegler. "It is in a dozen offers. The buyer plans to a magical situation, in woodland, near extend it and will need £150,000.

to restore - it's everybody's dream." Blount will be offering 17th-century Trinity Farm at auction on April 22. Originally two cottages in Redbourne, a pretty, unspoilt village, it has four bedrooms, two reception rooms, a Rayburn in the kitchen and six acres. It needs renovation.

We had an offer in excess of the guide price on day one. We are asking for offers over £200,000. But at the end of the day we're talking about £300,000, and it will be a cash buyer.

Stone Farm, a Grade II listed 16thcentury timber-framed country house in Warehorne, Kent, had been on the market through Strutt and Parker for a week when someone made an offer above the £185,000 asking price. Interest in the property is so intense that the agents are organising block viewings. Yet it is virtually uninhabitable, with hot water or bathroom; the ceilings are falling down and the kitchen has a cast-iron solid fuel range and a hand water-pump. The house is primitive, to say the least.

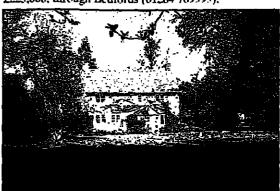
"We did feel it would be like bees round a honeypot," admits S&P's James Thompson. "When you go in there and see all the old beams and inglenook fireplace, you can just imagine how it will look when it is refurbished. And he adds: "It is hard to explain. But it seems the worse condition the house is in, the more people want to buy it."

Contacts: Christopher Blount (01666 825725); Strutt & Parker (01227 451123); Cluttons (01622 756000).

Three of the best Houses for the money



the village bank, but its first use, in the 14th century when it was built, was as a dye hall. Some of the undersides of the bricks in the rear kitchen show signs of blue dye, which is thought to have been used for uniforms worn in the Napoleonic Wars. The front of the house was added 250 years ago, when the property was used as a saddlery. Now a four-bedroom house, it has a heavily timbered kitchen/ breakfast room. In the main bedroom, a walk-in cupboard is concealed behind oak panelling. Since the telegraph poles were removed from the town in 1967 and the lines hidden underground, houses in the area have become popular. £225,000, through Bedfords (01284 769999).



Old Mint Cottage in Liss Forest, Hampshire, was once the home of the Money family, but in fact it takes its name from the mint that still grows in the land behind the house. It used to be harvested as a commercial crop. Dating from 1649, the three-bedroom cottage has an inglenook in the sitting-room with inset oak seats, and a 30ft, beamed dining room. It is set in 10 acres of private grounds, which include a stream and a pond: deer, foxes, kingfishers and ducks are frequent visitors. The cottage is a mile-and-ahalf from the mainline station (Waterloo 65 minutes), and is for sale through Keats for £259,500 (01428 724343).



the Royal Mint in London's Square Mile, is a refurbishment of a listed building, designed in 1932 as the Co-op's head offices. It has an impressive Expressionist-style entrance. Now redeveloped by Rialto Homes, the building has 150 apartments, the first batch of which have just been launched. Prices range from £99,500 for a studio flat to £425,000 for a three-bedroom penthouse. All will have 999year leases. The apartments will be provided with secure parking and 24-hour security. The building is to have a landscaped internal courtyard. For sale through Hamptons

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Looking for a healthy return

Is investing in the healthcare sector a prescription for profits? By Rachel Fixsen

ancy buying an option on a vices. Scientists are coming up with Instead of your health insurer sim-dialysis machine? How about amazing treatments, but the new ply coughing up when you get a bill diseases unit?

Those of us who grew up with the healthcare costs, are having to look good old National Health Service are used to keeping our money and health quite separate. But in the US, where the health-

care sector is largely privately owned, curing illness has long been hig business. It is becoming big business in all developed countries where treating the sick costs ever greater proportions of GDP. More and more of us are now liv-

some shares in an infectious drugs and technologies cost money. This is where investment oppor-

Hoping to make money out of the sick might seem in bad taste. struggling to manage ballooning to the private sector in the hope that increased competition will provide better-value services.

This is good news for investors in healthcare companies poised to take advantage of this, and for you if you can view senile dementia not as a sad goodbye to your grey cells but as a growth market.

For example, in the US, a new breed of insurance company called

ply coughing up when you get a bill from your doctor, with little control over how much it pays out, with an HMO you make a fixed monthly payment for whatever treatment you might need. Framlington has a unit trust

which holds shares in healthcare services firms, medical devices companies and pharmaceutical and biotechnology shares.
One firm it invests in, Cardio-

thoracic Systems, has developed tools making heart bypass surgery possible without stopping the heart. Another, Neurosearch, addresses "major market opportunities such



from the Framlington brochure. mention the money you could have However good the arguments for investing in healthcare sound, this

earned with a diversified fund. "It is a relatively volatile sector

is a high-risk trust. If you had in that it is dealing with embryonic can use the full £6,000 allowance. ing to old age, and the elderly are healthcare maintenance organisa- as depression, anxiety, Alzheimer's invested £1,000 in it a year ago you companies in the main," says Craig A serious investor might be come up with a blockbuster cut the heaviest users of healthcare ser- tions (HMOs) has sprung up. and Parkinson's disease," to quote would have lost 36p by now, not to Walton, Framlington's marketing advised to invest up to 5 per cent cancer or Aids. Who knows?

thinking about investing in it for anyone who's cautious shouldn't five years." Longer term, perfor get involved." mance has indeed been strong. After five years £1,000 would have grown to £2,222.93, according to MoneyFacts, the specialist financial information provider.

"Any specialist area will be much higher than average risk," says Fiona Price of London-based independent financial advisers Fiona Price & Co. "The vast majority of its investment is in the US, which

again adds to the risk element.
The safest way is to go into this on a monthly basis. When the price goes down, it will work to your Partners, which manages the trust, advantage. Then you can buy says most of its stocks are overdue cheaply, cashing in on the next rise

in unit prices, says Ms Price.
The Framlington trust allows you to invest £50 a mouth. The minmum lump sum investment is £500 and subsequent investments must be at least £100. There is a 5.5 per cent initial charge and a 1.5 per cent annual management charge. These charges are reflected in the price of Framington's imit trust can only

be used as a tax-free PEP up to £1,500 a year, because it invests in America, Japan, Europe and the UK. But Framlington does offer a PEP which links its health fund to its Extra Income Trust for which you A serious investor might be

director, "I don't think somebody of their portfolio in should be in this unless they're Framlington fund, she says. "But

Another avenue is Healthcare Reform Investment Trust, a new healthcare investment vehicle set up last September. Most of its cash goes to the US, focusing on companies trying to take advantage of government efforts to control

healthcare costs, such as HMOs. Healthcare Reform Investment Trust shares have fallen to 97.5p at last count after being offered to investors for £1 in September. But better times are seen ahead. David Talbot, president of Health Reform for significant recovery.

Pharmaceuticals stocks offer another route for investors.

Glaxo Wellcome, Zeneca and SmithKline Beecham are the UK's main drug stocks. BZW Securities has a "buy" recommendation on Zeneca and Glaxo, which means it expects them to outperform the stock market by more than 10 per cent over the next 12 months. It recommends holding SmithKline Beecham, expecting it to perform

in line with the market. Drugs stocks tend to suffer. rather than benefit, from efforts to curb healthcare spending. But you do get the excitement of hoping the company's research wizards will come up with a blockbuster cure for

Even Wall Street's bull run can be bettered by Buffett

on't let anyone fool you into think-ing that stock market investment is as easy as it is often made out to be when bull markets are raging. Virtually every successful investor in history has had a had patch at one time or another.

There is almost no exception to this rule, the nearest - incvitably - being the legendary Warren Buffett, America's most successful stock market investor. This weck, from his redoubt in Omaha, Nebraska, he unveiled the latest results of Berkshire Hathaway, the company through which he channels all his investments.

Having achieved a return of 43.1 per cent in 1995, last year his gain was a more modest, but still remarkable, 31.8 per cent. Granted, there has been the mother and father of a bull market on Wall Street in the past two years, but Mr Buffett has once again managed to outpace even the US market's heady performance by 14 per cent over the two-year period.

This is something that he has managed to do in all but three of the past 30 years, a record that defies all logic and experience. More remarkable still, he has never once had a down year in those 30 years.



So big has Berkshire Hathaway become on the strength of his investment prowess that last year's gain translated into a \$6.2bn increase in net worth. The man himself, the nearest thing to a genius that the financial markets have ever seen, continues to play it all down with customary panache. In 1995, he coolly observed that any fool" could have made money on Wall Street, and quoted the aphorism: "a

rising tide raises all yachts" This year, he has added his voice to that of others who have warned that the US market looks overvalued at current levels.

But his policy of sitting tight on his investments, which include large holdings in Coca-Cola, Walt Disney and Gillette,

continued to pay rich dividends last year.
His comment: "We continue to make
more money while snoring than when active." For the moment, he continues to make the art of stock market investment look ridiculously effortless

Back in the real world inhabited by almost everyone else, many professional investors are finding the going much tougher, at least in the sense of trying to outperform the market. Last year was notable for the number of well-known UK fund managers who found their traditional approach unsuited to the peculiar market conditions that prevailed. None struggled more than Foreign & Colonial, the largest general investment trust in the UK, which has around 100,000 investors, nearly half of them in its low-cost savings schemes.

The trust did not have a disastrous year, but its performance was pedestrian - an rease of just 4.8 per cent, in a year when the UK market was up 11.7 per cent. Its holdings in high-yielding stocks, a group that many wrongly expected to do well last

year, dragged down its UK performance; but the real damage was done by the volatility of currencies. Failing to hedge its overseas holdings against the strength of the pound in the second half of the year undid nearly all the successes it had in

picking markets and individual stocks. Just as importantly, Foreign & Colonial suffered from the general widening of discounts in the sector. The effect was that, despite the modest gain in asset value, the shares actually fell over the year. Foreign & Colonial has been trading at a discount for much of the past year of 10-15 per. cent, a level that it has not experienced for something like five years.

A lousy sector and a relatively poor performance within the sector has not made for the best of leaving presents for Foreign & Colonial's long-serving manager, Michael Hart. It is now 28 years since he took over the reins of the trust, and it is no exaggeration to say that there is no more widely admired investment manager in the City. Mr Hart hands over the management of the trust to his colleague Jeremy Tigue, in July, before retiring from the company at the end of the year.

formance, Mr Tigue has a hard act to follow. Since Foreign & Colonial's whole purpose is to provide a well-diversified, international portfolio with an income stream as well as capital growth, the scope for pyrotechnic performance is always going to be limited. Sure and steady, rather than fast and furious, has been its style for more than a century, and there is no logical reason for changing it now. Mr Hart's personal approach has been

to seek to add an edge in performance by having the courage to buy into failing markets, taking positions on currencies and negling at the margin with the amount of gearing in the trust. The formula has worked well for most of the years he has been in charge, and his successor intends to adopt a broadly similar approach. Chopping and changing an investment style just because of one year's indifferent performance would smack of panic.

That said, the outlook for the investment trust sector remains mixed. There are still too many trusts around, and the competitive pressures are intensifying.

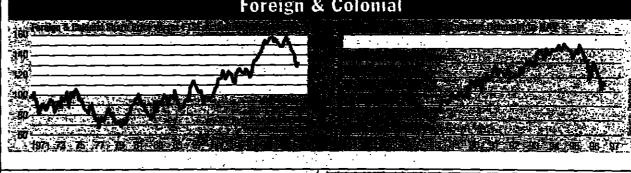
Despite the disappointing recent per- joined over 40 years ago is barely recog-amance. Mr Tigue has a hard act to usable in today's very different operation. At the same time, there is no question

that active fund management is getting harder every year, as the relentless rise of indexed funds suggests. Anyone whose job is to invest across all the main markets of the world, as Foreign & Colonial does, faces a tough job. There are simply so many variables to be got right. In a year when currencies are volatile, like last year, the scope for error rises. The odds are that the shares will come back in due course and the discount certainly makes them look attractive on a medium-term view.

One reason why Mr Buffett has done so well for so many years is that he keeps what he does as simple as possible - just a few large holdings of shares, which he watches like a hawk. In over 40 years of investing, he has only once taken a big position outside the United States - that was in Guinness, the drinks company, which he has subsequently sold. So currency movements have never been something he has had to worry about. There must be times that Foreign & Colonial would wish to The Foreign & Colonial that Mr Hart have made their life as simple.

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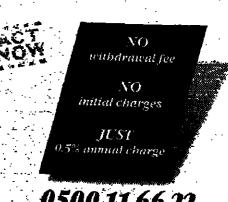
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did expect a long lead-in to the general election, but not the record hustings hurdles the Prime Minister has lined up. At the end of the first week I am already bored with politician-speak. By the end of April I will be gibbering.

The market's immediate reaction was interesting. Everyone expects share prices to fall on a Labour victory, so why dld it take the announcement of the date to send a shiver around the dealing community? Perhaps it is just the underlining of the time scale to which we are working. Maybe Cherie Blair will indeed be measuring the curtains for No 10.

What are the real worries for investors? The windfall tax stands out. Most people equate this with utilities. But look at the way water and electricity companies



have been gobbled up over the past year. It would be a tax on the new American owners as much as on anyone.

Then there are the bus and rail companies. I can think of one or two commuters who would welcome some punishment meted out to train operators, but the scope seems pretty limited if a

No company can easily escape Labour's windfall tax – not even the world's favourite airline

meaningful bit of bunce is to flow the way of the Exchequer.

Do not forget BT though. It is still the largest "utility". Of course, BT's focus is increasingly offshore, but this is as much a reflection of the way in which the telecoms market is becoming a global business than fears of a high-spend socialist government

targeting one of Britain's largest companies in an effort to claw back cash from any even half-way justifiable target. Even British Airways may not

be immune from the attentions of a new Scottish chancellor. The world's favourite airline could turn into Gordon Brown's favourite target. Many of the fears of investors are in the prices already, but no one is going to stick their head above the parapet until we learn the real cost, so

expect a dull period for vulnera-ble stocks until after the first

Labour budget.
Talking of the possible new incumbent of No 11, the rumours are that he will aim for a full Budget early in June. This is ambitious for somebody who has never held a Cabinet post before. Getting to grips with the Treasury

and coaxing the right information out of the Mandarins will not be easy in the first weeks of the new government. Even if the most likely scenario is a hudget with measures based on the first half of the two-envelope story, I find it difficult to see how much real iudgement can be exercised after

so short a period in the office. Which is why I worry that Mr Brown might go for an easy option and reduce, or even abolish, the tax credit that accompanies share dividends. This has the merit that it will hit few voters in the pocket immediately, will be virtually impossible to understand for the majority of the population, and yet could contribute

£5bn plus to the Exchequer. Why is it such an important move? Well, no tax credit, no ability to reclaim tax if you are a pension fund, a personal equity plan or a charity. Imagine the effect this will have on cash flows for our pension fund industry, given that 85 per cent of their investments are in ordinary shares. When previous Conservative chancellors chipped away at this benefit, the market reacted severely. Abolition could see a bid downward rerating of shares.

Time to mind your eye. All this assumes that the social-ists will win. The British electorate is quite perverse, often favouring the underdog. But it is a brave commentator who will predict a Tory win with the polls standing in their present state. Perhaps even now Mr Major is

preparing the two envelopes to which I referred earlier. The story relates to an outgoing head of state who handed to his suc-

cessor two envelopes, marked No I and No 2. The advice he gave was to open No 1 when the first crisis hit the incoming govern-ment and No 2 when the second one arose. Sure enough, after less than a year the government's popularity had fallen and the economy was in a mess. The new head of state opened No 1. It contained just two words 'blame me". He did, and the

problem was solved. The second crisis arose and the country's leader was keen to seek the advice of his predecessor. This time the envelope contained more detailed instructions. "Prepare two envelopes," it said.

Brian Tora is chairman of the investment strategy committee at Greig Middleton, stockbrokers

Ways to protect your income

Case study: two salaries, no children

NAMES: Tim O'Hara, 34, and Riki Therivel, 36. BACKGROUND: Tim is a

chartered surveyor with the Valuations Office, earning £26,800. Riki is an environmental consultant and a parttime university lecturer. Her income is around £20,000 plus £5,000 from lecturing. Although married for five years, they prefer to keep their finances separate. They have no plans to have children and

have a mortgage of £10,000. Tim has £5,000 in a building society and Riki has £2,500 plus £5,000 in a Tessa, £2,500 in a PEP and £2,000 in a unit

Tim is a member of the Civil Service pension scheme, while Riki belongs to the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS). She also has a Prudential personal pension for £150 per month. Tim is not sure if he will be working full time in the future and is considering a separate scheme.
ADVICE REQUIRED: They require advice on regular savings and retirement planning. targeting a pension (in today's terms) of £10,000 for Tim at age 55 and £7,000 for Riki at age 60. Riki is also keen on having green/ethical invest-

THE ADVISER: Bhupinder Anand is financial planning director of Caroline Banks Associates in London (0171-486 2119). He was named Independent Financial Adviser of the Year in 1995.

THE ADVICE: The most important aspect of financial planning is to protect what the couple already have. That is, protect life, health and income. In Tim's and Riki's case, given their lack of dependents and financial independence of each other, life assurance is not necessary. Their most important asset is their income for the next 20 years

and beyond. What is beyond their control is if they lose their income due to a serious illness or accident. Income can be protected either by an income replacement insurance (often called Permanent Health Insurance tax-free lump sum on diagnosis of a serious illness or a total permanent disability (TPD).



Looking for cover: Riki Therivel and Tim O'Hara found the makeover sobering

As an example, PHI cover of £1,000 per month would cost £21.55 for Tim (to age 55) and £36.71 for Riki (to age 60). The company is not the cheapest, but is one of a handful with fixed premiums. The policy is also based on a definition of being unable to follow one's "own" occupation rather than "any" occupation. Critical illness cover of £100,000 for 20 years costs £40.04 a month for Tim and £41.75 for Riki. This is with Scottish Provident which, again, is not the cheapest, but it has similar condi-

tions as above. Now to savings and pensions. Both Tim and Riki take a balanced view to investment risk. There are broadly two ways of savings, either using a unit trust (or similar), ideally within a PEP, or using an endowment

The PEP route is flexible years service. but also requires discipline to ensure that premiums are not stopped or reduced for too long, or excessive withdrawals insurance, which pays out a endowment will smooth out also makes a discipline of saving, in that an endowment

suspended. Tim and Riki I estimate that Riki needs to should split their monthly sav- contribute around £500 per ings between the two in what- month gross. However, the with Royal & Sun Alliance. ever proportion they prefer. maximum she can contribute They can also allocate some of is 20 per cent of her salary, their building society deposits similarly.

Some providers I recom- other forms of savings. mend are Perpetual, Schröders and Mercury for the PEP and any ethical funds. A better the endowment. Friends Prov- formed well. ident has a good ethical fund. which is Pepable.

With regard to pension planning, Tim should not leave sacrifice". This works by reducthe Civil Service scheme as it ing her salary by the gross is one of the best available. amount of the pension contri-Tim is concerned that if he bution that she wishes to becomes part-time in his later make, say £3,500 per annum. career, he will receive a Her employer then pays that reduced pension. In practice, however, if he works for 30 years, 10 of them on half pay. his pension will based on 25

Assuming this length of part-time employment, I estimate that Tim's pension will be around £9,000 in today's or PHD and/or a critical illness are made. A good with-profits terms. However, I do not see to see how much I'll have to the need to fund any further any market fluctuations. It for a pension, but to use other more accessible savings. By contrast, Riki has to it up with my company."

cannot be easily temporarily mainly fund her own pension. about £333 per month. She therefore needs to also look at

Prudential does not offer Commercial Union, Standard choice would be NPI whose Life and Scottish Widows for Global Care fund has per-

Riki may also take advantage of a pension planning technique known as "salary contribution to her personal pension instead.

THE VERDICT: Tim says: "1 don't like to imagine scenarios where I'm seriously ill or injured. I'll have to think about that. This makeover has been

very helpful." Riki says: "It was sobering start setting aside for a pension. The idea of salary sacrifice is a good one and I'll take

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John Windsor on the rise of classic works by black authors

hat shocks passers-by most about Britain's first black second-hand bookshop are the prices. As black people grow in appreciation of their literary heritage. the value of fine-condition first editions by key 20th century black novelists, poets and politicians has risen beyond £100 and is still rising.

I sat with Robert Beckford in his shop, Souls of Black Folk, in Brixton, watching the faces of black and white shoppers who had spotted the price tags on the volumes balanced precariously against his window.

Paul Robson's autobiography. Here I Stand, £65. The first American edition of James Baldwin's No Name in the Street, published as recently as 1972, also £65. The first UK edition of Chester Himes's first novel. If He Hollers Let Him Go, written in prison in 1947, £100.

Onlookers' jaws dropped. Mr Beckford smiled. "They've never seen books like these," he said.

In the ascendant are books by black authors who made their names during the Harlem Renaissance in Manhattan in the Twenties and Thirties, such as Baldwin, the novelist Ralph Ellison, poet Langston Hughes and Richard Wright (his nove) Native Sun is worth £500-£600 with dustjacket intact).

Also popular are books by postwar Pan-African political campaigners Marcus Garvey, George Padmore and contemporary women writers such as Terri MacMillan, Toni Morrison and Maya Angelou.

The ebullient Beckford has a string of academic qualifications, including an MA and an Oxford BSc in hotel

wo contrasting images summed up the

debate over mutually owned building

societies and insurers this week.

First, Alliance & Leicester Building

Society confirmed 21 April as its flotation

date. A&L members will each receive 250

The next day, Norwich Union, the

munificent scale than building society

members with a traditional with-profits

insurer, gave details of its own flotation,

planned for May. Almost 3 million mem-

hers will receive free shares, albeit on a less

The plan is that some 1.8 million NU.

endowment - such as those linked to mort-

More than 1 million among this number

will actually receive more than the minimum,

gages - will get a minimum of 300 shares,

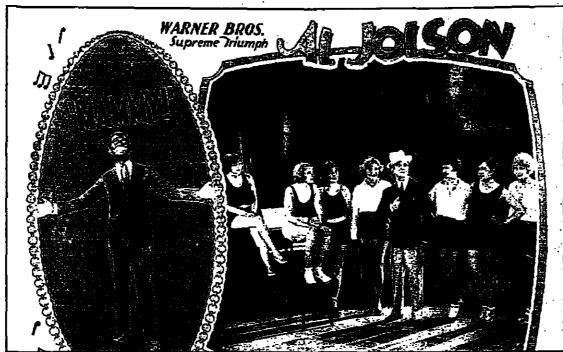
depending on the value of their existing

policy. While the exact calculation has not

shares, worth up to £1,200.

demutualisations.

worth about £720.



Bradford &

Bingley's

bonus is

of mutual

benefit to

everyone

loyalty

tourism and business studies.

His customers are mainly black. Hitherto, the almost exclusively white British book trade has sold its black books almost exclusively to white collectors, many of them American.

In bookshops off Tottenham Court Road, Mr Beckford says, he has seen sky-high prices for black books, such as a first edition of Booker prize winner Ben Okri's poems, Flowers and Shadows, at £275.

complaining in print that some white dealers are "stockpiling" black books - by which he means that some of

those with black book sections are reluctant to sell him titles requested by his customers or send him their

Beckford, are a new bandwagon set gence of black publishers such as The American classics following the suc-

In the United States, the market for African-Americana is booming. At Swann's second annual auction in New York last month, a fine 1891 first edition of Magda, the first verifiable novel by an African-American

woman, Emma Dunham Kelly. fetched \$4,400 (£2,665).

An 1867 second American edition of Clotelle, Or The Coloured Heroine, a first novel by an African-American man, sold for \$2,000 (£1,210). It is the story of the daughter of a US senator and his black mistress.

If you prefer to read the more salacious original version of 1853, in which Clotelle is the illegitimate daughter of no less than President Thomas Jefferson, buy The X Press's reprint, The President's Daughter.

In London, black film memorabilia attracts enthusiastic bidding. In Christie's South Kensington's next film poster sale on Monday (2pm), an 11in by 14in lobby card advertising

the first talkie, The Jazz Singer, of 1927, in which Al Jolson sang the legendary "Mammy", is estimated at £1,000 to £1,500 (pictured left).

All-collectors of black memorabilia have encountered the accusation of racism, to which their retort is "black history". Collectors, auctioneers and dealers use the term "blaxploitation" to describe collectables that reinforce black stereotypes. There are two lots of blaxploitation.

One is one-sheet film posters in the South Kensington sale. One lot, containing 32 posters for American films, including Shaft's Big Score, Superdude and The Klansman, is estimated at £300 to £500.

A big collection of "black ephemera" - advertising and packaging featuring black characters -fetched strong prices at Bonhams Chelsea in December. One of the 24 lots - three dozen advertising leaflets including well-worn images juxta-posing soap and black skin - made £360, more than double the £100-£200 estimate, Still modestly priced in this country are what are disconcertingly flagged as "coon cards" at postcard fairs. Published before the war, these postcards are today un-PC.

There is no doubt about the racism of American cards depicting black people as apes. These cards cost £7-£8 from postcard dealers. John Pardoe, managing director of a London financial services company, has collected about 1,000 of them

He regards them as social history, a natural addition to the rest of his collection - women's rights and ani-mal rights postcards. "But," he says, "whereas you find Jews collecting even anti-semitic Judaica, I know of no black people who collect these cards. They are very sensitive about the whole thing."

Souls of Black Folk (Robert Beckford), Unit 2, The Electric Market Hall, inside Market Row, Broaton, London SW9 8IP (0171-738 4141).

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management. When he is not bookselling or scouring bookshops and fairs for black titles, he is lecturing in

He has rocked the trade's boat by

mail-order catalogues. Second-hand black books, says Mr

rolling by the increase in academic black studies courses and the emer-X Press, which is reprinting black cess in 1992 of its attention-grabbing black gangster thriller Yardie.

with a NU personal pension. However, home adds, the benefits to savers and borrowers and motor insurance policyholders will get

With all these free shares "floating" around it is hard to see how the mutuals might compete. Which is where Bradford & Bingley comes in. The B&B is determined to remain in the hands of its policyholders.

This week, it too announced that it would reward its members' loyalty with a package worth £100m in 1997. The society is pledging to push its savings rates at least 0.25 per cent above those of its floating rivals: Halifax, Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester and Northern Rock. Variable mortgage rates will also stay 0.25 cheaper.

Bradford & Bingley argues its move, in which it gives profits back to members, is like a flotation but with a slow fuse. A borrower with a £50,000 mortgage, for instance, could save about £900 over seven years, compared to stock market rivals. In future, the society

will be even greater.

Of course, one must wonder why it has taken so long for building societies to respond to the threat from those converting to banks in this way. And there is more than a tiny dose of "poison pill" to the Bradford & Bingley's decision: potential raiders might have to admit that a hostile bid for the society could jeopardise these benefits to

policyholders. Even so, this is good news for savers and borrowers. It opens up the prospect of a minor rates war and an extreme reluctance to push up home loan costs for fear of losing market share. How long it lasts is another matter.

But as long as it does, those extra few pounds in interest from Bradford & Bingley will pay for a nice night out. Or that extra bottle of ouzo at the duty free -- to go with the holiday bought with the proceeds of the Alliance & Leicester flotation perhaps.

Act before 4th April

Nic Cicutti

yet been worked out, no maximum will

apply. So those with particularly large

policies will be made very happy.

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"M&G says that it will accept bonus shares from building societies converting to banks into its

it's possible that not all PEP managers will accept shares into plans."

Investors Chronicle 24th January 1997

on The M&G Corporate Bond PEP as at 28th February 1997 was 6-6% and

ne, M&G Corporate Sond PEF capital figures are offer to bid. The rate (source: CSO - Financial

The M&G Corporate Bond PEP

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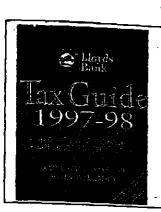
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The Equitable Life You profit from our principles

nless you've been on a desert island for the last year or so, you'll know that a windfall tax is in the offing – and that it's nothing to do with taking some of the apples that blow off your trees in the autumn.

Windfall taxes, essentially one-off levies on certain areas of the economy, arguably have a long and ancient history, though not necessarily a glorious one. So why are they so much in the news now - and will they affect you?

Back in early medieval times such levies were the main way that the sovereign raised money, usually through such devices as "fifteenths", which meant everyone had to contribute a fifteenth of their property to help fund the latest overseas investment drive (then known as a war).

With the development of more sophisticated forms of revenue raising such as customs duties, excise, stamp duties and that comparative newcomer - income taxes - one-off levies faded away.

In recent times there have been occasional returns to windfall taxes, the best known being a one-off tax on banking deposits in 1981 which raised about £400m. Less noticed or acknowledged was a Supplementary Petroleum Duty which came in at the same time, hit the oil producers in the North Sea and raised about £1bn - but perhaps that could be argued as simply an increase in the existing Petroleum Revenue Tax.

Now we have another of windfall tax on the horizon with a pledge from Labour that, if elected, they would introduce a windfall levy on privatised utilities alleged to have made windfall profits. The money raised would go towards new training schemes.

Full details of how the levy would operate are unclear, though more details are emerging from shadow chancellor Gordon Brown's recent Attack excess distributions? But that means John Whiting is a tax partner at Price Waterhouse.



John Whiting

There are some old precedents to Labour's windfall tax proposals

speeches. The yield has been talked of as £5bn, though this one-off levy may bring in less. But what remains opaque is exactly who is caught by the levy and how it will be computed.

In terms of who will be caught, the water and electricity industries are the generally accepted targets. But does that mean just the distribution companies? Does it extend to electricity generators? What about other parts of the ex-public sector - BT, BR, British Steel. British Coal etc? Pronouncements this week suggest that British Gas and BT are in the target area.

The method of calculation is very difficult. The banking levy in 1981 looked at the average amount of deposits held over a past period. That had the merit of being fixed, easily measured and not manipulable (in that the period was already past when the tax was announced).

But if the target of the impending windfall levy is excess profits how are these to be measured? Set a norm and look who made more - but that arguably penalises the more efficient companies.

going back to see who got the money - no doubt not the current shareholders. Look at the profit levels now? But that doesn't really get at the alleged excess profits of the past.

All one can say is that there is something of a Damocletian sword hanging over a part of the economy. If the levy only raises £1bn, many commentators have argued that could easily be absorbed by the likely recipients of the bills. But the amounts involved seem certain to be higher and may start to hurt. Then again, a Treasury report this week seemed to suggest that utilities had made good profits since privatisation - while at the same time pointing to the regulatory regime as arguably the control mechanism.

Overall, there is a climate of uncertainty. There is talk of challenges at European level, but Labour are certain that the EU would not interfere. So it looks as if a Labour victory would be followed by extra tax bills to many companies, but it seems highly unlikely there would be actual bills to shareholders.

Clearly your investments in Privatised Co may go down in value (or up if it turns out that the levy will not hit it as the market had anticipated). And in due course, I suppose, prices may go up, but that is another issue which the regu-

lators will no doubt get involved in. Then again, some are arguing that the Conservatives got there first with the recent introduction of a reduced rate of tax allowances (6 per cent as opposed to the normal 25 per cent) for long-term plant and machinery. This affects investors in big plant installations - which includes water and electricity companies. And the yield is going to be up to £750m annually on Inland Revenue figures.

Tax-saving tips

As the clock ticks inexorably on towards the 5 April deadline, here are a few tax-saving tips to consider.

You are allowed to contribute up to 15 per cent of your annual earnings into a company pension scheme. This attracts juicy tax incentives at the higher rate of tax. For personal pensions, the maximum is age-related, beginning at 17.5 per cent at 35, rising to 40 per cent at 61. The Revenue hands over up to £40 towards every £100 paid in, depending on your marginal rate of tax.

You can save up to £6,000 in a general PEP and £3,000 in a single-company scheme each year. You can also set up a Tessa with a maximum deposit of £3,000 in the first year, If you have a spare £100,000 lying

around, try Venture Capital Trusts. For each £10 you pay in, the taxman gives you £2 back. The money invested rolls up free of capital gains and income tax.

Your first £6,300 of capital gains in 1996/97 are free of tax. You can sell the shares and buy them the next day in order to lock in the gains until the following year. This is known as "bed and breakfasting".

☐ If you are considering inheritance tax planning, now is the time to consider making use of your £3,000 annual gift allowed each tax year.

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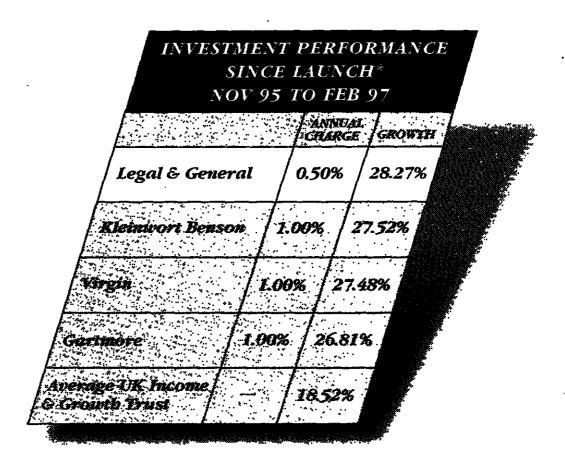
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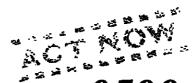
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How the telephone took over from the high street broker

sing the telephone to buy insurance, banking, mortgages and investment services seems to have been around for ever. Yet it was just 12 years ago, in 1985, that going direct began when Peter Woods and some colleagues decided that they could sell cheaper, valuefor-money motor insurance over the telephone.

Direct Line, the company he founded, now owned by Royal Bank of Scotland, stripped away the jargon, asking simple ques-tions in everyday English.

More important, from small beginnings and a highly success-

Tony Lyons reports on the rise of products sold by phone

ful marketing campaign with the ubiquitous red telephone, Direct Line began a revolution in how financial services were sold.

It started slowly, however, taking more than five years for policies sold to reach 500,000. Today, Direct Line has well over 2.2 million motor policy-holders.

By 1990, Midland Bank had begun the first telephone banking service through its First Direct subsidiary, a bank which opened for business at one minute past midnight on a Sunday morning and has remained open 24 hours a day, seven days a week ever since, with no high street branches.

Over the years, the range of services on offer over the telephone has multiplied. Life assurance, personal equity plans (PEPs), pensions, stocks and shares, mortgages and loans are now just a call away.

Much of the impetus to the growth of direct services has

come from new entrants to the financial sector. Names such as Virgin and Marks & Spencer, previously known for their retailing strength, now feature among. the leading pension and PEP suppliers, carving out a large share of the market.

Traditional insurance companies and investment management groups had to respond. In the early days, they often set up a new subsidiary with a different name so as to not annoy their financial adviser market. A typical example was the Insurance Service, which was actually owned by Royal Insurance. Nowadays, they

are happy to drop the disguise. Investors and savers have discovered that the cost of buying by telephone is usually cheaper than using a bank, building society or financial adviser.

Nowhere is this better illustrated than with personal pensions. One of the first to offer direct pensions two years ago was Merchant Investors, Already, a low-cost provider, investors who buy its pension plan over the telephone save themselves up to 5 per cent of the premium - the commission paid to financial advisers. Together with other direct providers such as Virgin,

Eagle Star, Scottish Widows and PensionStore, they have shown. just how much more expensive are the policies sold by traditional means with their higher charges.

Mortgages provide another good example of the savings. By getting a home loan over the telephone, house buyers can usu-ally save at least half a per cent on the mortgage rate. Among those operating in this market are FirstMortgage, Bradford & Bingley and, again, Direct Line The key to buying financial

services in this way is to know in advance what you want. The providers will not offer advice,

usually because they have not been trained to do so or it is not allowed under the investment rules. But a little bit of homework to decide what is needed, and a "ring round" to compare prices, is often enough. If the provider thinks a customer needs help and advice, they will refer them to an independent adviser.

What of the future? Already many of the financial services now available by telephone can be purchased by computer through the Internet. While this is only just beginning, it could grow as rapidly as telephone services have over the past decade.

This area is secure

Ken Welsby and John Hancock on investment over the Internet

t's become almost a ritual: "Thank you for calling Go-Slow Insurance; my name's Debbie, how can I help you?" But once you have got beyond the greeting, and confirmed that, yes, you are calling an insurance company because you want some insurance, what will you be asked to

Your postcode. And that's the key to the direction in which telephone-based financial services are heading.

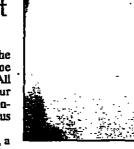
In their early days, direct sellers were regarded as "cheap and cheerful" alternatives to the mainstream, established financial institutions.

Not any more. Increasingly

direct sellers are using the latest technology to become more customer-focused. All the operator needs is your postcode in order to see onscreen details of your previous dealings with the business.

Robert Wint of Co-Cam, a company specialising in the kind of system which delivers this information, says large companies have traditionally been poor at customer relations. You could contact them several times and not be recognised.

This problem has become more acute as many bank branches have closed down



regional centres. Increasingly though, Mr Wint says, technology will "re-introduce the quality of one-to-one client

When making an invest-ment, people like to feel important. Call centres and client-focused systems put client data on to any screen at

person with whom you are dealing is able to ask if you are happy with the PEP you bought by telephone last week, you feel that you are a "real person" rather than an

account number. Developments of a different kind are taking place on the Internet. If you are looking for and more customers have the touch of a key. If you walk an investment, you can spend been allocated to faceless into your local bank and the hours viewing investment data

on the Web sites of most big UK investment providers.

Many of them include planning tools and on-line calculators to help you make a decision. Some will even handle questions, although the answers may be stock rather

than true responses. Today, most investment Web sites provide information and take enquiries, but do not handle payments. Although the technology for secure credit card transactions on the Net is financial services transactions it's still a matter of completing a direct debit form or putting a cheque in the post. That should change later this year as secure payment technology such as IBM's Commerce-POINT comes on stream. which will enable secure bank transfers to take place on-line. It is worth remembering

that most of these Web sites and the tools that they provide are part of a sales process and

the information may be biased. If you want to refer to something you read recently in The Independent, but didn't keep the cutting, you could be in luck if you subscribe to AOL Europe - the local version of America On-Line. With a few mouse clicks you can access our on-line edition and search

> ness pages of recent issues to and save it for reference. For anyone investing in managed funds such as unit or investment trust PEPs, companies such as Micropal and HSW maintain Web pages with up-to-date performance

the personal finance and busi-

data from main providers. For example, if you connect Interactive Investor (http://www.iii.co.uk) or Find,

the financial services net directory (http://www.find.co.uk) you can find not only performance figures from Micropal or HSW but performance his-

tories, profiles and analysis.

The basic services are free but for more details you have to register, to comply with the Financial Services Act. confirming you have asked for the information and that you understand the terms on which it is offered.

Lionel Welch, operations Investor, sees the next development as being "push" technology, downloading an intelligent screensaver carrying investment prices and data which automatically updates itself at regular intervals.

John Perceval, managing director of Omnium Communications, which created and developed Find, says that Wired and waiting: secure bank transfers should be able to be conducted via the Internet late

"when on-line banking gets under way later this year, attitudes to payment over the Web will change rapidly and make it possible for Web sites to accept payment and complete transactions for value".

Another new technology which is fooming over the horizon is interactive television. With the advent of digital TV the medium will provide a richer information environment - and television has the capacity to influence events in ways that the Internet cannot.

You can see how television and investment are already starting to connect if you have satellite or cable services and tune in to the two business channels, EBN and CNBC.

EBN, European Business News - part of the Dow Jones empire which publishes the Wall Street Journal - carries a mix of business and financial programmes, with regular

market updates. CNBC is much more market focused, and from early afternoon provides live coverage of the action on Wall Street, including the on-screen ticker showing virtually real-

time prices. In the world of digital television expect to see tighter links between the Net and broadcast services. In just a couple of years from now, expect to sit at home watching live news conferences and market commentary in a teleidow on v

net screen. One final statistic to consider from Charles Schwab, the giant US broking firm and parent of ShareLink, Britain's . 🖝 leading execution-only broker. This time last year, only 5 per cent of its dealing came from the Internet. Now the figure has passed 50 per cent. Will Britain be far behind?



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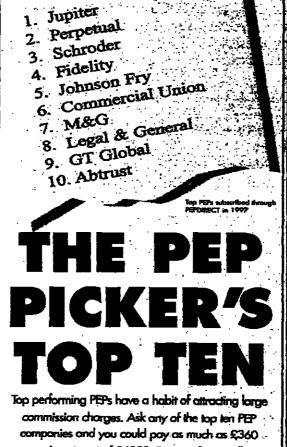
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Beat the year-end scramble

Pensions and PEPs are just a call away, writes Ken Welsby

year, fand managers providing personal equity plans (PEPs) are gearing up money into a PEP, but cons-for a last-minute rush. About panies such as Scottish Widone-third of all PEPs are now sold directly, either by tele-

simplified and repackaged. will only tell you Both Direct Line and Virgin, own products. two of the most popular providers, are open for business all day on Saturday 5 each tax year, many people. April, so customers can hand are investing both their current

Direct Line is setting up "PEP desks" at its regional offices to take application. Virgin, which is taking in PEP forms and cheques, while Vir-investments of about £10m a gin is likely to do the same at day: "Some people are investleast in London.

sense to make the call foday or 1997/98, but the vast majority tomorrow, then fill in the form who are investing for both years as soon as it arrives and send are sending the full £12,000."

sion. If you are not in a computting spare cash into a pen- in a representative sample. sion plan of your own - the Inland Revenue rules allow saves the huge amounts of

ith only two weeks to you to make contributions for the end of the tax up to six previous years. up to six previous years. Buying a pension is more

complicated than putting ows and Merchant Investors will explain the détails on the phone or post, reflecting the telephone. But, as with all way these products have been company representatives, they will only tell you about their

Although you can only put £6,000 in a general PEP for in completed application forms year's allowance and next and cheques right up until the year's, says Robert Allen, PEP manager at Direct Line.

This was echoed by Tony Wood, marketing director at ing a lump sum for this year But to be safe it makes and an initial payment for

it off with your cheque do later Most of the big sellers, than next weekend. Most of the big sellers, including those from Virgin, The other kind of long-term . Direct Line and Legal & Gensaving where the end of the tax eral, are tracker fainds, which year matters is a personal pen-seek to match the performance of a stock market index pany scheme, think hard about by investing in all its shares or

It's a simple idea which

agement. The downside, of course, is if the stock market does not do well, neither will

your PEP. But it is important

should try to keep them for at least five years. Most trackers follow the FT-SE 100 or the FTSE All Share. The FTSE 100 covers the 100 top companies (those with the ghest market capitalisation). The All Share covers about 900 - and its supporters point out that it includes smaller companies which often produce

better profits growth.

Funds which track the FTSE 100 are offered by General Accident, HSBC, Fidelity, Midland, Sovereiga and Virgin Direct, while Equitable Life, to remember that PEPs are Direct Line, Kleinwort Benlong-term investments, so you son, Gartmore, Old Mutual, Morgan Grenfell, Legal & General, HSBC and Norwich Union track the All Share.

An alternative to the direct sellers is the telephone-based plans from many big providers often more cheaply than you could buy them dispatch of the plant o brokers, such as PEP Direct could buy them directly. But it's even more essential to act early to meet the deadline.

in a PEP through a broker or an independent financial adviser, don't leave it too late. Make sure the intermedian has both the completed application forms and your cheque by Friday next - allowing a clear week for onward delivery.

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Dial M for a mortgage

Abigail Montrose and Ken Welsby on getting a loan

hoosing a new home can be exciting, but Imarching down the high street in search of the best mortgage deal is not. If you can't face the thought of spending your longth times or weekends nipping into local banks and building societies. why not pick up the phone? More than 20 well-known.

lenders operate telephone 🦠 mortgage services, including. lender has a telephone arm Abbey National Chellenham and a branch network, the & Gloucester. Woolwich and SVR is lower through its Nationwide. Some landers, such as First Direct First Mortgage and Direct Line, offer mortgages only over

Monday's election announcement triggered a dramatic increase in the volume of calls to many of the direct sellers - most from borrowers looking for longterm fixed rates.

"People don't know what the election means for interest rates, but they are fright-ened of uncertainty," said Nick Deutsch, effer executive of First Mortgage. "They want to nail down the rate now for three, four or five years as a precipition.

Borrowers who went through the pain of rates at 12 and 13 per cent and found themselves struggling to meet their commitments every month don't want to go through that again. They want certainty.

Mr Deutsch believes the move to fixed rates is just one reflection of continuing uncertainty in the housing market. While City analysis and big lenders talk of prices rising by between 7 per cent and 12 per centifies year, he says customers take a dramatically different views an increase of 2 to 3 per cent. irrespective of which party wins the election.

Calls to direct lenders are often free and their phone lines are usually open in the evenings and at weekends. Once you get through to the lender, you give the operator some basic details about. vourself, such as your age and income. In many cases the lender will be able to make you a provisional mortgage offer within-minutes, and if you know how much you want to borrow, the lender will be able to work out what the monthly repayments would be.

Some lenders can fill in most of the application form over the phone. This can take from 10 to 30 minutes. A copy of the application is sent to the potential borrower to check, sign and

Others prefer the poten- . tial borrowers to complete enabling borrowers to take ing a mortgage in this way their time over the form and can offer good value and the form themselves. to enter exact details such as convenience.

income and length of service with an employer. Telephone mortgages can often be cheaper, since the lender does not have the costs of a branch network. So while most lenders have a standard variable rate (SVR) of around 7.25 per cent, Direct Line has an SVR of

6.3 per cent

In some cases, where a telephone ann. For example. Bradford & Bineley Building Society charges an SVR on its mortgages of 6.99 per cent. But its telephone mortgage arm, Brad-ford & Bingley Mortgages Direct, has an SVR of 6.24

Probably the most flexible offering comes from Citibank. High easters - ` £40,000 a year and upwards - can open a Ciribank personal reserve account, which offers both secured and on earnings and overall net worth. Once the cretlit line has been agreed, you can call on it at any time with just one phone call. Rates are variable, calculated at London inter-bank rate (threemonth Libor), plus 1.25 per cent, which currently means paying about 7.5 per cent. Nationwide charges the

same rates of interest and offers the same range of mortgages through both its telephone service and its branches: A spokesman for Nationwide says the building society makes no distinction between the two services, as the aim is to let customers choose which service is most suitable and convenient for

Several banks and building societies which offer mort-gages both direct and through their branches can arrange for a financial adviser to visit you at home.

Some direct lenders offer only repayment mortgages over the phone. Others will offer interest only mortgages
provided that you arrange
for the repayment vehicle.

The amount you can borrow may be limited. Some direct lenders require as much as a 25 per cent deposit. But many offer 95 per cent mortgages and some, such as Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct, offer 100 per cent mortgages, although the rate of interest may be higher.

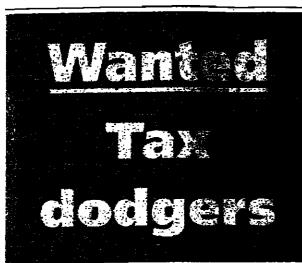
Buying a home can be a daunting experience and direct lenders find that few of their customers are firsttime buyers. But for those who are confident enough to deal over the phone, arrang-

Quite simply, an outstanding pension.



Plug your PC into the money markets

There's a wealth of data to be downloaded. By Ken Welsby



Why pay unnecessary tax on your savings when your money can grow entirely tax-free in a Virgin Growth PEP? Call us now to secure your

PEP and your tax savings before the tax year ends on April 5th.



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investment £50 a month or £1,000 lump sum.

: Direct Rerognal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Persona down as well as up and you may not get back all the money west. The basis of tax may change and the value of the tax. refit depends on how much tax you pay. For your security, all calls

to Virgin Direct will be recorded and randomly monitored.

indfalls from building societies and insurers that abandon mutual status to become public companies will create about 11 million new shareholders in the course of this year.

For most, it will be their first experience of direct share ownership although many, of course, will promptly sell their shares to invest or spend the cash elsewhere. But for those prepared to take the long-term view, windfall shares could provide the first stepping stone towards building a stock mar-ket portfolio. If you fall into this category, you need to give the subject a few minutes thought now, rather than waiting until the envelope lands on the mat.

As Charles Vintcent, a London stockbroker and investment adviser explains: "Most people come into the stock market by accident. Something happens that either gives them some capital, or puts them in the position where they need to make their existing capital work harder, and they come to realise that they should look at investing in shares."

In recent years, he says, many of his new clients have been managers and executives who were made redundant.

"They have often collected some sort of pay-off, and because they have a certain level of expertise can find parttime or consultancy work which gives them a reasonable standard of living," he says. "But they need to make their capital grow to secure a comfortable retirement - and that leads them to the stock market."



Screening profits: some services such as infotrade even enable investors to trade through their home computers

Like all private client bro-kers, Mr Vintcent found himself spending large amounts of time explaining to clients how the market works, what moves it, and how to construct a portfolio. All of which prompted him to write the best-selling guide to investment and share trading: How to be your own Stockbroker.

The book has been followed up by a software package. Cybertrader, which allows investors to analyse share prices, select and manage their own portfolios, track performance and set buy/sell limits, using Stock Exchange closing prices and other information downloaded from the

Internet each night. One key feature is the ability to run separate trading and investment accounts, so that you can look for short-term opportunities as well as longterm growth:

Cybertrader's focus contrasts sharoly with Infotrade, which offers a broad range of financial services, including will writing, insurance and mortgage quotations as well as stock market investment. Both programs use a dial-up

link to a central database which then updates information on your PC's hard disk. For those with a speculative bent, the Infotrade service

even covers the Ofex trading

facility for smaller companies. information by modem, and the And there are links to lots new version, to be delivered of useful information, includ-next week, calculates your caping sector averages so you can contrast selected stocks with others in the same way of business, and background May) will be daily reports of material from a variety of directors' dealings, often a sources.

But the big bonus from Infotrade is the direct links to three execution-only brokers -ShareLink, Cater Allen's City-Deal and Brewin Dolphin's Stocktrade service.

Once you have an account with a broker you can place buy and sell orders on-line. The system automatically calculates dividends received and expected, downloading the group of people who con-

month and decide together how it should be invested.

There are hundreds of such clubs around the country. many of them launched and encouraged by ProShare.

tribute an agreed sum each

Among the most successful is the Maydown Mergers club based in Londonderry, which has 19 members, all working in the local textile industry.

"It started more or less actidentally," said Mike Carroll, the founder. "I read an article about it and we got talking at work. The next thing, word got round and people were queue-

ing up to join.

At launch, each of the 19 members contributed £200 as a lump sum, plus £25 a month. which has just gone up to £30. In the first year, says Mr Carroll, the return was 15 per cent - but in the last three months this has topped 25 per

We use Infotrade to decide on investments," says Mike Carroll. "At first we did it manually, but there's so much more information you can get

Cybertrader 0181-904 2010 (software free, monthly subscription for on-line service. tvpically £10-20 depending on usage and services).

Infotrade 0800 226600 (software free, basic subscription £2.95 a month includes 2 hours on-line. Extra time at £1.55/hr. with additional charges for specific services such as real-time prices and mortgage quota-

ProShare 0171-600 0984. for information on investment clubs.

First National, the Republic of Ireland's largest building society, is offering UK savers a range of accounts through its telephone and postal service. These include a 30-day postal account paying 6 per cent gross, paid monthly, on

deposits above £2,500. Call

0800 558844.

Towry Law, the independent financial adviser, is offering free copies of its With-Profit loose

Bond Survey. Call 0345 889933 or write to the company at Baylis House, Stoke Poges Lane, Slough, Berks,

TSB is offering free copies of its Money Savings Guide. which includes tips on paying

less tax on your savings. Call 0500 758400.

Woolwich Property Services. the estate agency arm of Woolwich Building Society, is offering to scrap its fees for anyone who takes out a new mortgage with the society. The company is also offering access to a five-year fixed-rate home loan, pegged at 8.19 per cent. Details from estate agency branches.

pays up to 4.5 per cent gross

on deposits above £100,000. The society pledges to contribute 1 per cent gross of money in all accounts to the football club. Call 01733

John Charcol is launching cap and collar" mortgages,

for people who support Norwich City FC. The account pays up to 4.5 per cent and pays u

ital gains tax position, if any

to the system (available from

reliable indicator of company

tools, but knowing how to

use them - and make money

with them - is quite another

story. And that's where the

private investor often comes

One solution is to join forces

with a few friends to form an

investment club - essentially a

It's one thing to have the

prospects.

unstuck.

The other hig enhancement

Midland Bank is launching a Capital Protected PEP, which offers at least 20 per cent over five years or stock mar-ket growth linked to the FTSE 100 share index, 0800 100160 for details.



Call now

PHONING Prudential is the easiest way to cut a small fortune off

the cost of your home insurance. Not only is the company one of the cheapest on the market, there are also other hefty discounts. You can get 15 per cent off your contents premium for taking out combined buildings and con-

Age-related discounts of up to

20 per cent are available on both

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if you are aged 45 or over. Prudential will also cut £25 off

your first year's buildings' pre-

mium if you switch from your

mortgage lender. Or £15 off your

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Security discounts of up to

17.5 per cent are available off

your contents premium if you

meet Prudential's household

you have never insured with Pru-

tents insurance.

dential before.

requirements.

Prudential cuts the cost of cover

Lower bills are only a call away. By Dave Firebrook

and contents insurance is one of those time-consuming rituals many of us go through each year. But now, thanks to Prudential, one of the UK's largest insurance companies, it is possible to

obtain home and contents cover in a fraction of the time. And at a fraction of the cost. For example, Paul and Amanda Nicholson, who live near Lands End. in Cornwell, were able

to cut an astonishing £260 off their bill by switching to Prudential. The couple's savings come courtesy of a revolution in the insurance world. Gone are the days when finding the best price meant going through an intermediary, such as your local broker. Or

gage lender's insurance policy. These days, one call to a national telephone centre such as Prudential's is all you need to get

when you felt obliged to stick with your mort-

cheap cover right away. Simplicity and low costs come easy to

Prudential. The company has some nine million customers worldwide, with £82bn under management. The company's size and the efficient way it is run allows it to deliver some of the best deals. on the market. More than 1.75 million people in Britian have chosen Prudential to insure their homes. Over 90 per cent of Prudential customers

inding the best - and cheapest - home outstanding satisfaction rate. Insuring your home with Prudential is easy. All it takes is a simple free phone call - 0800 300 300 - to one of the insurer's friendly telephone consultants. Getting a quote will only take a few minutes.

Moreover, when you decide to take out cover through Prudential, you have the option to pay the premium in one lump sum or by means of 12 interest-free monthly direct debit payments.

The company's Plain Speaking Home Insurance covers both buildings and contents policies. These can be bought singly, or together, which

Prudential's buildings insurance offers: Unlimited cover for the cost of rebuilding and repairing your home. This includes permanent fittings and built-in features, such as garages, walls and fences, drives, pools and patios.

 Accidental damage to pipes and cables, glass in doors and windows are all included, as is loss of rent or the cost of alternative accommodation. up to £15,000.

Contents cover is equally straightforward ☐ You are automatically insured up to £30,000 for "New for Old" cover.

One free call - 0800 300 300 - is all it takes to cut pounds off your annual home insurance bill. Pick up the phone - in years to come you will wonder how you could have found cheaper decided to renew their policies last year - an cover any other way.

| LOOK HOW MUCH YOU COULD SAVE | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Birmingham 861 | Tunbridge Wells TN1 | Dartford DA1 | | | | |
| PRUDENTIAL Plain Speaking Home Insurance | £167.54 | £214.74 | £287.97 | | | | |
| EAGLE STAR | £234.93 | £234.93 | £385.61 | | | | |
| GUARDIAN Dimensions | £245.39 | £357.83 | £430.71 | | | | |
| ROYAL & SUN ALLIANCE Select | £239.46 | £280.66 | £331.33 | | | | |
| COMMERCIAL UNION Key plan | £210.65 | £233.12 | £361.26 | | | | |

The quotations are based on a customer aged 30, owning a three-bedroom semi-detached house built in 1955. Sum insured of £80,000 for huildings cover for illustrations except for Prudential Plain Speaking Home Insurance where the sum insured is unlimited. Bedroom-rated contents cover of up to £30,000 (£35,000 Eagle Star and Guardian) for illustrations. New for Old cover, Prudential Plain Speaking Home Insurance quotes include a 15 per cent discount off contents premium for combined buildings and contents insurance, plus £15 off the first year's buildings premium when switching from another insurer. Premium tax of 2.5 per cent is included. Quotations correct at 20/03/97.

ADVERTISEMENT



Riding high: Amanda and Paul Nicholson slashed hundreds from their home insurance premiums

A couple break the bank

hoosing Prudential for its home and contents insurance paid big dividends for Paul and Amanda Nicholson. The couple were able to save £260 compared with their old policy by choosing Prudential.

The quote for £160 they received last year was also half the cost of the next cheapest estimate Paul had been able to find, despite calling more than a dozen other insurers.

He is delighted with his choice: "We spent the money we saved on a new saddle and bridle for Troy, one of the two Arabian horses my wife enters at shows."

When the Nicholson's moved into their new home near St Just, close to Lands End, three years ago, it seemed natural to opt for their mortgage lender's home and contents policy. Paul Nicholson was busy

launching a new business, called

Two people, one phone call ... and £260 off their home insurance bill

Roots West, a mountain bike tour company which caters for tourists who want to view the beautiful Cornish coastline from a saddle rather than the confines of a car. Amanda was settling into a new job caring for people with learning difficulties.

But then the couple found that despite never claiming on their policy, premiums just kept on rising. The last bill they received was for £420.

Paul decided to act: "I like to get value for money and so I spoke to the bank, saying that I thought the premiums were too high. They

So I decided to look elsewhere for a cheaper quote."

His calls soon led to keener prices being quoted by other companies. However, it was his last call - to Prudential - that finally. paid off: "I had seen an advert and decided to give them a call.

"I was very surprised to be quoted £160 for both home and contents insurance, so I went back to my bank and asked if they could match that price. They said they couldn't, so I went to Prudential."

Cover was granted instantly over the phone and a form was then sent to the couple for them to sign. Within a week or two,: . everything had been sorted. Paul was impressed: "Prudential was very efficient. All it took was one free call."

All discounts are applied on a

Phone Prudential for a no-obligation quotation FREE 0800 300 300



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حكدًا من الأصل



حكدًا من الأصل



Serena Mackesy

In my week

Thanks Saddam. we'd have been lost without you. I know Sly, Arnold and Wesley feel the same

emo from Larry Trench- and no red-blooded sex symbol To: Larry Finkelbaum, Head, LCD Studios, Larry Patzigar, Producer, Larry Tempasent,

speech for Monday night. Any

"Ladies and gentlemen, friends, Members of the Academy. [Modest, overwhelmed pause.] Thank you. This is a same studio as her husband great honour, and one I will shortly after their wedding statuette.] I can't, of course, accept this award on my own behalf, because as everybody here knows, a movie is not the work of any one individual, but of

This industry is full of warm, talented, creative individuals who have worked soullessly toward one common goal: the enrichment of all our lives. I wouldn't be standing here today if it weren't for the contribution of these

a whole team of people.

people, and, though obviously time won't permit me to name all of them individually, I would like to thank at least some of them. [Look directly to camera.]
Those of you who don't get a
mention tonight, please don't think I'm going to forget you

in a hurry.
So, where to begin? Well,
Imposter would have been nothing without our wonderful cast. That they achieved such quality in their acting was little short of miraculous. We were very lucky to have the talents of cut out the Commie tendencies. Manila Starbuck, who courageously sniffed at nervous exhaustion to be with us. We all cherish fond memories of Manila's punctuality, good humour and boundless energy, and were touched by the devotion of Donna, her personal pharmacist, who was permanently on hand in her trailer to ensure that these qualities never flagged. The personality problems between Manila and Harley Burke were greatly exaggerated by the National Enquirer: Harley is above justifiable. This just goes to my sense of humour and everything a dedicated thespian, prove how vitally important the desire not to show off.

foot, Writer-Director, such as he is could have failed to strike up a cordial relationship with an actress of Miss Starbuck's obvious standing

Producer, Larry Tempasent,
Agent.
Enclosed my acceptance
speech for Monday night. Any
commences.

Thanks, too. should go to
Harley's lovely wife and former
publicist, Mindy Mansfield,
whose timely marriage to him laid to rest the rumour mill and rescued the mid-west audience figures. Mindy has proved to be dented in her own right, as the five-film deal she landed with the never forget. [Fond glance at proves, Talent runs in the family:



personal assistant to Harley on our set and rapidly scored a promotion to Best Boy.

But the cast is only part of what goes to make a great movie like Imposter. There are so many people to thank for so many different forms of input. First among them is Larry Finkelbaum of LCD Studios, who sat on my project for more than 20 years before finally

Thanks, Larry: I owe you one. I would also like to thank the people of Trailerpark, Indiana, who reacted so unfavourably at test screenings to the original ending, in which the villain bought himself a seat in the Senate, that the studio ordered a complete rewrite. After consultation with my lawyers, I fully accept that the cameo role involving Arnold Schwarzenegger and a hand-held nuclear missile gun was both more guest powder room, so that realistic and more morally

opinions of you little people are to us in Hollywood.

Thanks, also, to the Teamsters Union for their provision of Italian-American labour. Their professional driving skills are second-to-none, and well worth the extra few hundred thousand bucks. Also, a word to Mr Burke's personal driver, Tito, who unfortunately had to be replaced just prior to the start of shooting. Get well soon, buddy. We're rooting for ya.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Islamic peoples of the world for proiding us with a source of villains now that we

can no longer rely on the United States of Russia to threaten American democracy. We're living off the fatwa of the land thanks to you guys! No, but seriously, Saddam, thanks: we'd have been lost without you. I know Siy, Amold and Wesley feel the same way. I must also mention

my latest discovery, Miss Mindy's brother. Jonas, acted as Honey Darling, who was a complete unknown when I cast her in the role of Laura Farmgirl. Honey has proved to be a real pro. She is such a pro, in fact, that far from discovering her working in Sunset Boulevard, as the publicity material suggested, I in fact found her working on Sunset Boulevard. Her performance convinced me to give her the part. My philanthropy has been amply rewarded. Thanks, Honey.

I see that time is running out, but I have one more thank-you to make. And that's to the most important people in my life, my parents, whose discouragement and lack of belief in me have dogged my every step. Thanks, for nothing, Mom and Dad, If you expect me to visit you in your state old people's home in New Jersey, think again. I'm too busy sitting by my olympic-sized pool.

Members of the Academy, thank you. This statuette will have pride of place in my home. I will use it as a doorstop in the everyone will be impressed by my sense of humour and modest



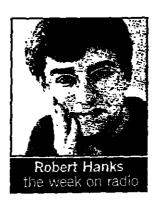
Dark visions of Utopia

onsidering that it's meant to be an ideal state, Utopia has a terrible image. When you label something or somebody Utopian, you don't usually mean it as a compliment - as a rule, what you're getting at is that it's either hopelessly optimistic or unavoidably authoritarian. So the challenge Michael O'Donnell sets his guests on Utopia and Other Destinations (Radio 4, Saturday), in which they are asked to expound their personal vision of the ideal state, is to

where between those two

poles - to design a version of

Nowhere that might be Some-where we would want to live. Whether a Utopia designed by Jan McEwan, this week's guest, could be such a place seems doubtful, and the doubts weren't quelled by his declaration that in this particular brave new world. "I hope to carry on being a novelist, and I'd like people to be as darkly interesting as they are." A brief glance at pretty well any of McEwan's novels will tell you that the sort of society that could provide fuel for his imag-



find a place that sits some- a pretty one (do you know where between those two what the black dogs in Black Dogs actually get up to?).

As the interview progressed.

though, it became clear that McEwan's vision was, even by Utopian standards, a particularly optimistic one: because his ideal world, one where people would have all the conflicts and the suffering they have now, bore a striking resemblance to the one we already inhabit. True, he did suggest some improvements in his version, people would live in cities surrounded by farmland and wilderness, with ination would probably not be recorded music would be meaning an "enclosed gar- advance on purgatory.

replaced by live concerts, stuff like that. Like most Utopias. too, it would be physically isolated from the rest of the world (McEwan's laager, so to speak) - though when asked who would be excluded, he didn't have any suggestions: "If you leave anyone out, you never know, you might need them for a book." So his ideal world was in

essence the here and now. This may seem strange, and not merely because it comes from somebody you wouldn't normally mistake for Dr Pangloss. But as McEwan said, "The best Utopias are rooted in the feasible". In the end. Nowhere isn't where we want to go; it makes more sense if our ideal world is Somewhere we might actually get to.

We don't always expect to get there in this life, though. This is one of the differences between Paradise and Utopia. The other important one is that Utopia is somewhere you can take your friends, while getting to Paradise is a matter of individual effort. The comparative selfishness is reflected in the etymology: "paradise" no room for suburban sprawl; derives from a Persian word. Heaven, perhaps, but a big

den". The Islamic ideal of the walled garden was explored in the first part of In Paradise (Radio 4, Thursday), in which Noah Richler sets out to test the premise that, in any given culture, visions of paradise and visions of gardens are more or less the same.

This seems an unlikely subject for a four-part series, but the first programme exploited the improbability nicely: in Tehran to see some Persian enclosed gardens. Richler was forced to attend a presidential press conference as the only available BBC man, so he took the opportunity to interrogate President Rafsanjani about his personal vision of Paradise, Tobe honest, he didn't get much of an answer, but it was worth asking the question. More impressive was the way Richler leapt from the Koranic ideal of Paradise, with its emphasis on running water and the mailability of bashful dark-eved virgins (as chaste, apparently, as the sheltered eggs of ostriches), to some wider conclusions about sexual politics and the importance of irrigation in Iran. All in all, a seductive series. Not

Making a drama out of male crisis

Night in with the Girls (BBC2, Sat and Sun) told of the long fight for sexual equality in the television industry. In the early days a woman's place was in front of the camera, providing she was young and beautiful. Thanks to hard graft, a willingness to be ballsier than male colleagues, and by suppressing the biological urge to breed, they have arrived at a kind of executive parity. All to no avail, though, if they allow dramas like Have Your Cake and Eat It (BBC1,

Sat and Sun). Have Your Cake and Eat It is about a weak, spiritless, craven man (played by Miles Anderson) who can't choose between wife and mistress. Its first two episodes were concurrently scheduled against A Night in with the Girls, which can only be some sort of private joke between the two BBC controllers, both of whom are male. If anyone spent the weekend scoffing the eponymous gateau, it was them. "Hey, ladies, here's a boring two-part documentary about your struggle, and here's a gripping four-part drama about ours.

More coincidentally. Have Your Cake And Eat It arrived on the tail of ITV's Reckless, which offered a rather less neanderthal take on the eternal triangle: for once the middle-



ie week on television

aged woman got to choose between two men. Perhaps the bakers of Have Your Cake - it was cooked up by Rob Heyland. one of whose previous dishes is Between the Lines - will plead that, far from a reversion to the old gender stereotypes, they've redressed the balance of sexism. So that now there are more eyefuls of nudity for female viewers than males. Emancipation equals five primetime sightings of Miles Anderson's buttocks (which, in case you're annoyed you missed them - but don't be - are as quirkily indented as his other cheeks). And only one of Holly Aird's.

In A Night in with the Girls. the screenwriter Paula Milne said she couldn't have written dramas like The Politician's Wife. in which the politician's

adultery, without the knowledge she gained from having five children. Sam and Charlotte, the married couple in Have Your Cake, have five children too, and they're all screwed up - thieving and spliffdesigner dysfunctions arises less out of their - at best sketchy domestic environment than out of the requirements of the drama. Though Sam hypocritically tells his wife to think of the children before arguing in front of them, his creator has not heeded the advice of his own dialogue.

That scene did yield one

shaft of searing truth, when their teenage daughter walked in on a row between her parents. To shoo her away, Sinead Cusack, as Charlotte, screwed her mouth into a false and now looks a racing certainty. hideously effortful smile of reassurance. Nothing to do with the Goldring sniff around the BBC script, of course; just an actor and help cure its chronic. digging for character between internecine troubles. An Heyland's lines. Of the other employee at Birt House told me central performances. Ander- this week of whole departments son did his usual long-lost being employed to thwart the younger brother of Richard efficiency of other departments. Harris, all Celtic braggadocio and that working days are most and uncorked charm. And it productively spent with nose in would undermine this column's newspaper. The reason 4 Night feminist stance if it said what it in with the Girls was less than thinks about Aird's other intriguing was because it was woman. Suffice to say she'd largely about prehistoric office have held down a job presentson deeply resents his father's ing in the old BBC.

True equality in television will come when they start making drama after self-indulgent drama about the female menopause. For the moment, the male version seems to be the only strain of the mid-life ing, etc - but their grabbag of crisis officially endorsed by the small screen. You'd think they'd have cottoned on by now, what with so many women having kept their jobs presenting beyond the menopause. Some programmes owe their entire vitality to the seniority of their frontwomen. The thrill of The Goldring Audit (C4. Sat) derives from a buttleaxe in advanced middle-age poking her nose into essentially masculine sanctums and telling them they're all washed up. This week it was the racing industry, whose own demise

> It would be thrilling to see politics, commotions recollected in tranquillity.

Whatever happened to...

DAMIEN, WHAT ARE

TALKING

TO THE

YOU DOING?

Star Wars

The George Lucas blockbuster?

No, the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) launched by Ronald Reagan in 1983, dubbed 'Star Wars' to fire the American public's imagination. The plan was to build an anti-ballistic spacebased defence network to provide a protective shield over the American

Science-fiction

GROW JUST BY

HAVING LITTLE

As The Times put it, the general reaction was "disbelief, disinterest, cynicism, laughter". The idea of filling the sky

beams and cloud burning heat rays seemed a little... well, different. Only five out of the 18 NATO countries responded positively to the idea.

Mission Impossible

In April 1984, the American Union of Scientists declared it "technically unattainable". And a second problem emerged: it completely violated the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty of 1972 forbidding space-based systems. For some reason, the Soviet Union seemed

with giant mirrors reflecting back laser Reykjavik summit of 1986 when a nearagreement to massive weapons reduction was halted by the US President's adherence to the policy.

The sequel

George Bush was elected in 1988 and proved equally keen on the project. Congress had other ideas. By the autumn of 1989, it had agreed to the cut in the programme's funding.

Europe and The World

unable to overlook this factor at the By May 1993, Bill Clinton had scrapped



the project scrapped. Evidence had The comeback come to light that the test-run Star Wars-style mid-air collisions had been orchestrated using radio receivers. A staggering \$32 billion had been spent on strategic defence research since revived. May the farce be with you, again, 1983.

James Aufenast

"Star Wars" may be about to strike back. In February, the Republican senator Jesse Helms said he wanted the programme

WEATHER

.6:27pm to 6:06am

6:24pm to 6:03am

.6:26pm to 6:04am

-24pm to 6:01zm

s-35om to Scillani

The British Isles General Situation and 5-Day Outlook:

Scotland and its islands will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain, some of it heavy to the north and west, while the wind picks up. Northern Ireland is going to stay cloudy all day with rain at times and a brisk south-west wind. Northern parts of England and Wales will be cloudy with a freshening south-west wind while rain spreads from the west. Central and eastern England will get some hazy sunshine and patches of cloud, but with cooling breezes on coasts.

Sunday promises some sunshine once light rain and showers have moved away, but more rain will spread from the west. That rain is going to clear to the east on Monday. with some sunshine for a time, but more rain

will follow from the west. Mild westerly winds are expected through Tuesday and Wednesday, with a lot of cloud. rain and drizzle to the north and west. It should, though, be dry and bright to the

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NO₂ Good Good Good Good Good

5:26pm to 6:01am

6:02am

WORLD WEATHER YESTERDAY, MIDDAY (GMT): c,de SO₂ Good Good Good Good Good Good Good SO₂ Good Good Good Good Good Good

0.37 6.5 13.06 6.7 10.25 8.9 22.44 8.8 6.06 12.3 18.29 12.5 Hull (Albert Dock) 5.28 7.3 17.31 7.2 11.46 3.2 10.51 3.8 23.07 3.1

AA Roadwatch London, A306 Hammersmith Bridge Closed both ways to general traffic for structural works. Expect congestion or both sides of the river.

M1.72 Hendon area. Major readworks at Five Ways Corner, with no access to or from the A1 Great North Way. Bristol, M5 J18-19. Contraflow in operation across the Avenmenth Bridge with a Sumph speed limit. Regular rush-hour dekrys.

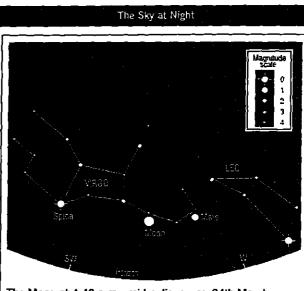
West Midiands, A34. Major roadworks on Stratford Road. Sparkhill. No entry into Highpate Road, Reguku delays expected. M1 West Yorkshire, 147 Leeds

(M621/At63 Holbeck), long-term roadworks with speed limits down to 30mph. Debys on the M.1, M621 and Dewsbury Road. City of Edinburgh, MS IC. Major road-

works, with lane closures on the mundahout at J2 (Newbrider Spur). Greater Manchester, At Hazel Grove. Roadworks northbound. Also Mail 110. Southbound entry slip closed. Hants . A 31 Ringwood, Contraflow for bridge strengthening, Long delays.

Out and about with AA Road-watch cal 9336 401 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source:

Full moon: March 24



The Moon at 4.40 a.m - mid-eclipse - on 24th March. View towards West Southwest

wo weeks after eclipsing the Sun in Mongolia and Siberia, the Moon plunges nto Earth's shadow and is itself eclipsed in the early morning hours of Monday 24th March. This not-quite-total lunar eclipse s observable from the UK. But before it is completely over, dawn will have broken and the Moon will have set. Earth's umbral shadow begins to creep wer the Moon at 2.58 am. Maximum eclipse is at 4.40 am when 2 per cent of the Moon's diam-

eter will be engulfed. Observers can expect to see the Moon take on a deep coppery tone, apart from a thin unaffected crescent. The Moon is in Virgo at the time of the eclipse, not far from a red rival in the shape of planet Mars, which is currently at its most brilliant. Take advantage of the temporary respite from a bright moonlit sky to look at Comet Hale-Bopp over in the

Jacqueline Mitton



The big picture The Two Jakes Sun 10.05pm BBC2

The long-awaited sequel to Roman Polanski's 1974 classic, Chinatown, finally arrived in 1990 with a muffled thud of disappointment. Again scripted by Robert Towne, but this time directed by its star, Jack Nicholson (above), who doesn't seem to know what he wants to do with the piece. It starts brightly enough, however, and a good cast - Harvey Keitel, Meg Tilly, Madeleine Stowe, Eli Wallach, Frederic Forrest – make the most of Nicholson's sluggish and surprisingly spiritless direction.

Television preview

Recommended viewing this weekend by Gerard Gilbert



Travels with Peysner Sat 6.15pm BBC2 The Goldring Audit Sat 8pm C4: Performance: Richard II Sat 10.15pm BBC2 Midsomer Murders Sun 8pm ITV The Knowledge Sun 9.20pm BBC2

one of those dodgy adverts in which astounded looking punters learn Serbo-Croat in their sleep (or their money back), but Thomas taught French to both Woody Allen and the Monaco-bound Grace Kelly in days - and now charges £10,000 for intensive oneto-one language busting. No wonder he's not too keen to share his methodology. Until now, that is.

In The Knowlege (Sun BBC2), Thomas, a softlyspoken octogenarian of Polish descent, is recorded in action for the first time, teaching a class of disinterested-looking Islington sixth-formers, one of whom of had been advised to give up French because counterweight to Bolingbroke (Richard Bremmer; she "had absolutely no aptitude for languages". Thomas starts by exchanging the blackboard and desks for some comfy armchairs and soft lighting ("No one can learn when they are physically uncomfortable," he purrs). By the fifth day, all the pupils are bandying relatively complex French, and speaking in awed terms of Thomas's ability to concentrate and

ichel Thomas reckons he can teach even the most academically modest pupil a new his mental powers during the war whilst being tortured the even-handed way it subsidises smallhold olive language in just five days. It may sound like by the Gestapo (learning to mentally blank out the pain) and then subsequently working for American counter-intelligence, where he became famous for eliciting, without torture, detailed confessions from droves of top Nazis.

The other must-see of the weekend is Fiona Shaw as Richard II (Sat BBC2), the latest in the current season of *Performance*. This is Deborah Warner's justly acclaimed Royal National Theatre production of Shakespeare's tragedy. The casting of a woman is no mere gimmick, and Shaw's sympathetic embodvery impressive) and the plotters. And it neatly circumvents the lazy portrayal of Richard as homosexual - and, therefore, as weak.

Mary Goldring, who apparently can't understand why she intimidates people, takes on the farming industry this week. If there were anything that needed the full chilly force of The Goldring Andit (Sat C4)

growers in Greece and massive agri-businesses in Wiltshire. The level of hand-outs to your average grain farmer in southern England is a scandal.

The farmers answer is, of course, "pay up, or-thecountryside goes set aside," which brings me by the skin of my teeth to Travels with Peysner (Sat BBC2), in which Janet Street-Porter surveys some of the architectural jewels of North Yorkshire - or the North Riding as Nikolaus Pevsner would have had it in his original guide book. Street-Porter has such a flat delivery that I think she ought to double up with Lucinda Lambton as a TV double act. Cotking and pluming, lanky and little, dead-pan and oh-so enthusiastic

And finally a cosy English whodwhait, Midsomer. Marders (Sun ITV) brings back to our screens John Nettles, he of the Jersey copper series. Begenic. Who killed the elderly orthid collector - the blackmailing spinster, the gold-digging orphan, the cuckolded doctor or the jealous artist? It's only missing Colonel Mustard and a denouement in the drawing room.



The big match St Helens v Salford Reds Sat 2.30pm BBC1

This could well be the last year for This could well be the last year to rugby league's Challenge Cup — possible victim of Sky's new summer Superleague. With it will go BBC1's coverage of a sport it made its own with the distinctive voices of Eddie Waring and then Ray French, the latter of whom will be in the Latter of whom will be in the commentary box at Central Park, Wigan. Saints, the highly fancied holders, will be hoping for something special from Paul Newlove (above), the most expensive signing yet in the newly inflationary game.

Saturday television and radio

BBC 1

7.00 Harry and the Hendersons (R)(S)(T) (1251716). 7.25 News, Weather (3693483). 7.30 Children's BBC: Felix the Cat. 7.45 Phantom 2040. 8.10 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest.

3.35 The Flintstones. 9.00 Live and Kicking, Sean Maguire and 3T plug their singles (\$) (78419087).
12.12 Weather (7048938).

12.15 Grandstand. 12.20 Football Focus (2764445). 1.00 News (81386629). 1.05 Racing from Newbury: 1.15 Brown Chamberlain Handicap Steeplechase (47274648). 1.25 Motor Sport: look ahead to the RAC British Touring Car Championship at Donington Park (59002716). 1.40 Racing from Newbury: 1.45 Lamboum Handicap Hurdle Race (83156174). 1.55 Rugby League. 2.10 Racing from Newbury: 2.15 Hoechst Roussel Vet Panacur EBF Mares' NH Novices Hurdle Race (36707938). 2.25 Rugby League: St Helens v Salford Reds, the first Challenge Cup semi-final (kick off 2.30pm). See *The big match, above* (228006). 4.05 Football Latest (9600667). 4.10 Figure Skating: Coverage of the ladies' free skating at the World Championships in Lausanne (4757667). 4.45 Final Score (5980261).

5.20 News, Weather (7) (9466396). 5.30 Regional News and Weather (418629).

5.35 Cartoon (226209). 5.45 Dad's Army (R)(T) (190754).

6.15 The New Adventures of Superman. Lois struggles to prove her innocence (S) (344087). 7.00 Noel's House Party (S) (380174).

7.50 The National Lottery Live. "Uncle" Bob Monkhouse presides over today's draw. The musical guest is Seal (S)(T) (210629). 8.05 Crime Traveller. Holly learns from a television report that Slade has been shot and travels

report that Slade has been shot and travels back in time to save his life (S)(T) (520700).

8.55 News and Sport, Weather (T) (176006).

9.15 Have Your Cake and Eat It. 3/4. Continuing the pedestrian adultery drama. Charlotte and Sam (Sinead Cusack and Miles Anderson) struggle to save their marriage (S)(T) (646648).

10.10 They Think It's All Over (R)(S)(T) (868261).

10.40 Match of the Day. The relegation battle between Coventry City and West Ham United is the main event. Ruud Gullit and Alan Hansen are in for analysis (S)(T) (5635822). 11.45 Chalk. Second-sitting sitcom (R)(S)(T) (451377).

12.45 Jericho Fever (Sandor Stern 1993 US). New Mexico is held to ransom by terrorists with a deadly virus. Stephanie Zimbalist and Perry King

to the rescue (S) (7053323). 2.10 Weather (8931149). To 2.15am. REGIONS: Scot: 4.10pm Figure Skating, 4.40 Afternoon Sportscene, 9.15 Mind the Gap, 9.45 Have Your Cake and Eat It. 10.40 Sportscene - Match of the Day. 11.45 They Think It's All Over. 12.15 Chalk. 12.45 Top of the Pops. 1.15 Weather.

BBC2

6.20 Open University: The Palazzo Pubblico, Siena (7966754). 6.45 Volcanic Iceland (9694613). 7.10 The Vernacular Tradition (1273938). 7.35 Going to School in Japan (8629358). 8.00 Open Saturday (712803). 10.30 A Week to Remember (7741396). 10.40 INEM Arsene Lupin Returns (George Fitzmaurice 1938 US). Monsieur Lupin being a gentleman jewel thief, originally (in 1932) portrayed by Lionel Barrymore. In this belated sequel, Melvyn Douglas steps into Barrymore's size tens and takes to Paris in the company of a young heiress (4001071).

in the company of a young heiress (40010/1).

11.55 AWOMAN's Secret (Nicholas Ray 1949 US).

Not a vintage Nicholas Ray movie (the first in a double-bill today), but interesting all the same.

Maureen O'Hara is the ageing radio singer suspected of murdering her ungrateful protégé (Gloria Grahame). Using a flashback structure, Herman J Mankiewicz's script investigates her innocence — or not (5054629).

Herman J Mankiewicz's script investigates her innocence – or not (5054629).

1.20 Film 97 with Barry Norman (S)(T) (87332367).

1.50 Sign Flying Leathernecks (Nicholas Ray 1951 US). Another Nicholas Ray movie, not that you would know it. Made on assignment to RKO and Howard Hughes, it's a pretty routine tribute to the Marine Corps squadron fighter pilots, with John Wayne and Robert Ryan at each other's throats against Technicolor back-projection (89740938).

3.30 Sign The Horse Soldiers (John Ford 1959 US). Union soldiers John Wayne and William Holden lead sabotage raids behind Confederate lines, while Wayne is beguiled by Southern belle

while Wayne is beguiled by Southern belle Constance Towers (408700). 5.25 The Saint. Simon Templar joins the hunt for a Nazi

5.25 The Saint. Simon templar joins the hunt for a Nazi now living in South America. A young Francesca Annis is among those receiving the benefit of Roger Moore's cocked eyebrow (5018193).
6.15 Travels with Pevsner. Janet Street-Porter in North Yorkshire. See Preview, above (S)(T) (743209).
7.05 News and Sport, Weather (T) (170377).
7.20 Correspondent. Reports on a separatist movement in Assam in India and on biker gangs in Scandinavia (S)(T) (492483).
8.05 Call of the Sea. I lifehatmen a lighthouse keeper.

8.05 Call of the Sea. Lifeboatmen, a lighthouse keeper and survivors from stricken ships tell of their rescues in the second part of this oral history of the British and their choppy relationship with the sea (S)(T) (985193).

8.45 Till Death Us Do Part. An episode from the last (1974) series has Patricia Hayes and Alfie Bass in guest roles (R) (360071).

9.15 Ice Skating World Figure Skating Championships. programme, the final event of the competition from Lausanne (\$) (637990). 10.15 Performance: Richard II. See Preview, above

(S)(T) (54440280). 12.20 Windows on the World. Film about director David

Fanshawe's "musical circumnavigation", taking in the sounds of Laos, Thailand, India, Zanzibar, enegal, Cuba and Bolivia (S) (8154033). 1.20 Global VideoByte. Top of the pops in Senegal, Hong Kong, Japan and the Phillippines (Followed by Weatherview) (7175643). To 1.45am.

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV: News. 6.10 Professor Bubble. 6.30
Bananas in Pyjamas. 6.50 Bug Alerti 7.15
Dragonflyz. 7.45 Disney's Wake Up in the Wild Room. 8.55 Power Rangers Zeo (6321006).
9.25 Scratchy and Co. This week's guests are comedian Jimmy Cricket and the Spice Girls (24806006).
11.30 The Chart Show (S) (25321).
12.30 Love Bites. Do boys really think about sex every 11 minutes, and can you find true love on the Internet? With guest Jayne Middlerniss (88087).
1.00 News, Weather (7) (81304025).
1.05 London Weeleend Today (7) (81303396).
1.10 Rugby World Cup Sevens. Highlights of today's pool matches from Hong Kong, Introduced by Jim Rosenthal. Analysis by Gavin Hastings and John Taylor (S) (67652667).
3.45 Cartoon Time (9495193).

1ayor (5/6765267).
3.45 Cartoon Time (9495193).
3.50 SeaQuest DSV (7) (8353667).
4.45 News, Sports Results, Weather (7) (3098087).
5.05 London Weekend Tonight (7) (1261209).
5.20 Star Wars Triogy — the Magic and the Mystery.
Documentary hype for the re-release of Star Wars (5013648).

6.10 Early Edition. US series about the dilemmas of a

6.10 Early Edition. US series about the differentias of a man whose daily paper carries the next day's news. Gary is forced to choose between saving a young girl or 190 airline passengers (S)(T) (376071).
7.05 You Bet! Davina McCall and Ant and Dec help out (S)(T) (753795).
8.05 Stars in Their Eyes. A bingo caller impersonates Julian Clary, while others dress up as Louis Armstrong and Alanis Morissette (S)(T) (604716).
8.50 Doomsday Virus. Conclusion of the two-part miniseries about the plight of passengers trapped

8.50 Doomsday Vinus. Conclusion of the two-part miniseries about the plight of passengers trapped aboard a 747 who are feared to be carriers of a deadly virus. After the CIA decides to have the plane shot down, the captain tries to take evasive action, while a lone scientist frantically tries to convince the President that the lives of the 250 innocent civilians must be spared. With Richard Dean Anderson (S)(T) (98775025).
10.35 News, Weather, Lottery Result (T) (337984).
10.50 Film Awards. From the Park Lane Hotel, London. A bevy of celebrities and international stars (Matt.

bevy of celebrities and international stars (Matt Dillon, Cameron Diaz, Richard E Grant, Elton John) present the second annual Empire Magazine Film Awards. Nominated films include Trainspotting: Sense and Sensibility and Secrets and Lies (517483)11.50 in Bed with Medinner. Beefy comedian Bob Mills.

trawls through another collection of ridiculous TV programming (S) (838803).

ELEM Night of the Big Heat (Terence Fisher 1967) UK). Energy-starved protoplasmic aliens cause a winter heat-wave on a Scottish island (hey, they're

welcome down my way any day). Christopher Lee and Peter Cushing investigate (137965). 2.00 Tropical Heat (R)(S) (4604323). 2.55 Et News Review (7811859). 3.45 Club Nation (R)(S) (8485878). 4.40 TTV Sport Classics. Archive action from Oslo's Bislett Games (R) (36850507). 5.05 Coach (S) (7656491).

5.30 News (98946). To 6.00am.

Channel 4

6.00 Sesame Street (R) (28377).
7.00 Dumb and Dumber (S) (10261).
7.30 Dennis (R) (3382716).
7.45 First Edition, Jon Snow presents this Channel 4.
Schools programme which seeks to analyse world events for younger viewers in an unpatronising way (R)(S) (320707).
8.00 Transmodel Stand (201621).

8.00 Transworld Sport (81551). 9.00 Morning Line (S) (50464). 10.00 Gazzetta Football Italia (28280). 11.00 NBA 24/7. Comes from Chicago, home of the Chicago Bulls, and includes an interview with Scoop Jackson (S) (15716). 12.00 Rawhide (98464).

1.00 EBB South of Algiers (Jack Lee 1952 UK).
Beautifully photographed and unusually intelligent desert adventure about a band of explorers. searching for a lost forms said to contain the priceless golden mask of Moloch. Van Heffin leads the archaeologists, Wanda Hendrix is the female lead and Eric Portman is the rival treasure-seeker out to thwart them (1) (32067358).

2.40 Racing, Jim McGratir introduces racing from December the 3.00 Galactic print Straight Straight Straight Straight

2.40 Racing, Jim McGrath introduces racing from Doricaster: the 3.00 Gainstioroxigh Spring Stakes, 3.40 Worthington Lincoln Handicap, 4.15.

Midland Copying Doricaster Shield and 4.45.
Cammidge frophy (S) (351.69822).

5.05 Brookside Oranibus (S)(T) (2628716).

6.30 Right to Reply (S)(T) (261).

7.00 A Week in Politics. Vincent Hanna and Andrew Rawnsley review the week's political news and subsequent election fever (S) (1919).

8.00 The Goldring Audit. Mary Goldring meets the farming industry. See Preview, above (S)(T) (3957).

9.00 Last Chance Lottery (S) (3713).

10.00 Eurotrash, Jean-Paul Gauttier and Antoine De Cauries present more recun titiliation from across

10.00 Eurotrash. Jean-Paul Gauttier and Antoine De Caunes present more rerun titillation from across the Channel (R)(S) (50716).

10.30 The Show. Bob Millis fronts another of those chat shows with a difference – the difference being that here you get all the backstage business of booking guests, getting them to the studio on time, and so forth (S) (6129303).

11.35 Hill Street Blues. More police work from the seminal 1980s Steven Bochco cop show. Captain-Furillo tries to contain a vigilante movement, while one of his uniformed officers makes a serious mistake with an armed prostitute (R)(T) (452377).

12.35 The Client. So-so legal eagle series set in the American law courts, and based on John Grisham's best-selling thriller. A friend of Reggie's could save Foltrieg's reputation (S) (5696859).

1.30 The Girlie Show (S) (78743).

2.00 Rickl Lake. Three single mothers who cannot get a

2.00 Ricki Lake. Three single mothers who cannot get a date (R)(T) (8825859).

2.45 Beavis and Buft-Head (R)(S) (74679). 3.15 Flava (94762).
3.45 Bless This House (R) (13702168).
4.10 Film Night. The work of documentary film-maker Errol Morris, and a behind-the scenes look at the

technology being used for the newly re-digitalised Star Wars films (R) (7669679).

4:45 The Beat Specials. Music from McAlmont and Misty Oldland (R) (387946). To 5.50am.

ITV/Regions

AMCUA
As London except: 12.30pm. Movies, Games and
Videos (88087). 1.05 Anglia News (81303396). 3.45
Streeten World Billiants Chempionship (350209). 5.05
Anglia News, Sport (1261209). 11.50 Film: The Postmen Always Rings Twice (23328464). 2.05 Carnal
Knowledge (4691859). 3.05 Film: The Sellouf*
(8781548). 4.30. - 5.30am Funky Burker (58197).

CSITTIAL AS London except: 12.30pm Premiere (88087). 1.05 Res London except: 12.30pm Premiere (88087). 1.05 Central News (9456919). 5.10 Central Match - Goals Edra (3220006). 3.45 Jobfinder (439472). 5.20 - 5.30pm Asian Eye (8850491).

RTY WALES #ITV WALES
As Lopdon except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (88087). 1.05 HTV Wales News and Weather (8130396). 3.45 Sturimasters (9978919). 4.20 World of Wonder (1915716). 5.05 HTV Wales News and Sports Results (1261209). 11.50 Film: The Postman Always Rings Twice (23328464). 2.05 Camal Knowledge (4691859). 3.05 Film: The Seffout* (8781548). 4.30 - 5.30am Funloy Bunker (58197).

BIT MEST
As HTV Water except: 12.30pm Sportsweek (88087).
1.05 HTV West Headlines and Waather (81303396).
3.45 Movies, Games and Videos (9978919). 4.20
The List (1915716). 5.05 - 5.20pm HTV West News,
Sports Results and Weather (1261209).

MERDIAN AS London except: 12.30pm Pier Pressure (88087). 1.05 Meridian News and Weather (81303396). 1.10 Rogby World Cup Sevens (67643919). 3.50 Baywetti (8353667). 5.05 Meridian News and Weather (1261209). 11.50 Pinc: The Postman Always Rings Twice (23328464). 2.05 Carnal Knowledge (4691859). 3.05 Pilm: The Sellout (8781548). 4.30 - 5.30am Funky Bunker (58197).

- 5.30am Furny Burker (36197).
WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (88087). 1.05 Westcountry News (81303396).
3.45 Cartnon (9405193). 5.05 Westcountry News (1261209). 11.50 Film: The Postman Always Rings Twice (23328464)... 2.05 Carmal Knowledge (4691859). 3.05 Film: The Selfout* (8781548). 4.30
-5.30am Funky Burker (58197).

**TORNISMRE: As Landon except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (38087). 1.05 Calendar News (81303396). 3.45 Certoon (9486445). 3.55 Baywatch (9553025). 5.05 Calendar News (9456919). 5.10 Scoreline (3220006). 11.50 Films: Cop (315938). 1.45 In Bed with Medinner (9665149). 2.20 Films: Horide Waless* (7289410). 3.40 Funny Business (13795878). 4.10 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (32599694). 4.40 - 5.30am Munder, She Wrote (7577168).

CHANNEL 3 NORTH EAST
As Yorkshire except: 1.05pm North East News (81303396), 5.05 North East News and Weather (9456919). 5.10 - 5.20pm Full Time (3220006

s C4 except: 10.00am Hangin with Mr Coope As C4 except: 10.00am Hangin' with Mr Cooper (52993), 10.30 The Cosby Show (68735), 12.00 Through the Glass Celling (9858990): 12.20 Film: The Unsinkable Molly Brown (62560025), 6.30 Love Life (261), 7.00 News (166174), 7.15 Noson I'w Choffo: James Galway (2414396), 8.20 Hel Straeon (764025), 8.50 Pengelli (319396), 9.25 Last Chanca Lottery (4674938), 10.30 The Show (56396), 11.30 Forean TV (46529), 12.05 Countryside Undercover (6740859), 4.45 - 5.50am The Beat Specials (6210138),

Radio

Radio 1

(97.6-99 8MBz FMD 6.00am Dave Pearce 9.30 Mark Goodier 12.30 Listen Without Prejudice 3.30 Trevor Nelson 6.30 Danny Rampling – Love-groove Dance Party 9.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 12.00 The Radio 1 Reggae Dancehall Nite 2.00 Essential Mix: Murk 4.00-6.00ar Annie Nightingale

6.00am Mo Dutta 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Steve Wright 1.00 The Monkhouse Archive 1.30 To the Marior Born 2.00 Judi Spiers 4.00 Nick Barraclough 5.00 Still Got the Blues: the Enc Clapton Story 6.00 Eddi Reader in Concert 7.00 Gigi 10.00 Wales in the West End 12.05 Jon Briggs 4.00-

Radio 3 GO 7-92 4MHz 530

7.00am Mo Dutta

Radio 2 (86-50 2MDL: FMD

6.55am Weather; News Headlines 7.00 Record Review 9.00 Building a Library. 10.15 Record Release. 12.00 Private Passions, Michael Berkeley's guest this week is actress Juliet Stevenson, (R) 1.00 (Was There.

1.20 News: Vintage Years. The second of three programmes in which Annette Morreau explores the short life of William Kapeli, the first virtuoso pianist to be born and trained in America. Rachmaninov: Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini. Brahms: Vi ola Sonata in F minor, Op 120 No 1. Schubert: Impromptu in A flat. D935 No 2; Im Fruhling; Du bist die Ruh: Nur wer die Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto No 2 in C minor.

3.20 Youth Orchestras of the World, Christopher Seaman conchestra of Great Britain.

4.45 Strings from a Lute. Matyas Seiber's arrangement for strings of a senes of lute pieces by 1-Baptiste Besard, played by the Guildhall String Ensemble 5.00 Jazz Record Requests.

looks at the Berlin cabaret of the Thirties through the eyes of artist George Gro 6.30 Live from the Met: Carmen. Earlier this season, Bizet's opera was staged at the Met in a spectacular new production by

5.45 Music Matters, Ivan Hewett

In case you had any doubts that radio is the superior medium, an edition of Kaleidoscope called "Stripping, Nicheing and Topless Darts on Ice" (7.20pm R4) looks at the future of television and sees horrors ahead. Is *stripped and stranded" merely Channel 5's scheduling philosophy, or how the viewer is going to feel?

Meier as the tragic gypsy temptress, and Placido Domingo as Don Jose. Chorus and Or-chestra of the Metropolitan Opera. New York/James Levine. Act 1. 7.30 Life before Carmen.

8.45 The Met Opera Quiz 10.30 Best Words. Featuring an interview with Jamie McK endrick, whose collection The Marble Fly is published this

momin. 11.00 Membra Jesu nostri. The first of seven programmes for Holy Week in which Harry Christophers conducts soloists from the Stateen and principals from the Symphony of Harmony and Invention in seven cantatas, entitled Membra Jesu nostri, by Dietrich Buxtehude. 11.10 Cork Jazz Festival. Richard

Niles introduces the SBC Sig Band, conducted by Barry Forgie, in concert at Cork Opera 1.00-7.00am Through the Night.

924年以前 第148年 6.00am News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.50 Prayer for the Day. 6.55 Weather. 8.58 Weather. 9.00 News. 9.05 Sport on 4.

11.00 News; The Week in West-11.30 The Americas File. 12.25 The News Quiz. 12.55 Weather.

10.00 News; Loose Ends.

1.10 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs a topical dis-cussion in Burghfield Common, near Reading, with Viscount Cranborne, Lord Privy Seal and

Choice

Leader of the Lords; Robin Cook, shadow Foreign Secretary; Emma Nicholson, Liberal Democrat spokesperson on overseas development and human rights; and Andrew Marr. Editor of the

1.55 Shipping Forecast.
2.00 News; Any Answers?
2.30 Saturday Playhouse: Telling the Sea. By Pauline Fisk. When 13-year-old Nona and her family run away to Wales, they're look-ing for a fresh etat expression. ing for a fresh start somewhen safe. But things just get worse and Nona has to turn to the sea for a friend. With Amanda Gordon and Rhys Thomas.

4.00 News; That's History. 4.30 Science Now. 5.00 Ribbons and Revelations, Julia McKenzie travels to Smith College, America's largest women's college, as 2,000 alumnae of all ages return for

5.40 New York Diaries. 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.25 Week Ending. 6.50 Utopia and Other Destinabons. Biographer and novelist Victoria Glendinning reveals to

7.20 Kaleidoscope Feature, As Britain's fifth television channel prepares for its launch next week, satellite and cable broadcasters are making their own preparations for the future. John filson considers the likely implications of the approaching revolution. See Choice, abo 7.50 On These Days.

Michael O'Donnell her notions of

8.50 Saturday Night Theatre: Wal-ton's Pike. A play by Tony Ram-say about Sir Izaak Walton, the author of The Complete Angler as he goes on one last fishing tmp. With Richard Johnson and David Timson, (P.) 9.35 Classics with Kay. 9.50 Ten to Ten.

10.15 Dark Tales: The Shroud. Robert Forrest's play is set in a murky underworld of crime and religious extremism. Detective spector Quinlan follows a trail of corpses that have one strange thing in common - they are all linked to the Shroud of Turin. With Kern Falconer, Russell

Hunter and Sandy Neilson. 11,45 Memoirs of a Maladjusted Teacher. (R) 12,00 News. 12,30 The Late Story: Citizen's Arrest. By Charles Willeford. 12,48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service.

5.50 Inshore Forecast. 5.51 Bells on Sunday. 5.55-6.00am Shipping Forecast Radio 4 LW 02.494 600 t FM, 1584tz 136

Radio 5 1993 919tic NM 6.00am Dirty Tackle 6.30 Brian Hayes at Breakfast 9.00 Weekend 11.00 Top Gear 11.30 Sick as a Parrot 12.00 Richard Littlejohn 1.00 Sport on Five 6.06 Six-O-Six 8.05 The Treatment 9.00 Dailyn UK 10.00 Brief Lives 10.30 Asian

Perspective 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2,00 Up All Night 5.00 Morning Reports 5.25-6.30am World Sevens Classic FM (100.0-101.94%; Re) 6.00am Sarah Lucas 9.00 Countdown 12.00 Gardening Forum 1.00 Alan Mann 4.00 Jane Markham 7.00 Travel Guide 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 The Classic

Virgin Radio (1215, 1197-1250Net; MW 105,8NUt; FMD 6,00am Janey Lee Grace 8.00 Russ 'n' Jono's Greatest Hits 10.00 Jeremy Clark 2.00 The Album Chart with Mark Fortest 6.00 Lynn Parsons 10.00 Robin Banks 2.00-6.00am Howard Pearce

Quiz 12.00 Andre Leon 4.00 Travel Guide 5.00-6.00am Michael

World Service (198ktz UY) 1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Just a Minute 2.00 Newsday 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 World News 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Music Review 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Short Story 4.45 On the Move 5.00 Newstay 5.30-6.00am Weekend/In Praise of God (SW

Satellite

7.00am Orson and Olivia (72025). 7.30 Free Willy (51532). 8.00 The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles (14803). 9.00 Quantum Leap (98648), 10.00 Kung Fu - The Legend Continues (57716), 11.00 Legand Continues (57716). 11.00
Legands of the Hidden City (57667).
11.30 Sea Rescue (58396). 12.00
Wrestling (47700). 1.00 Wrestling
(36648). 2.00 Star Trek (33648).
3.00 Star Trek: Next Generation
(56984). 4.00 Star Trek: Deep Space
Nine (48919). 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (7071). 6.00 Fung Fu – The
Legand Continues (43984). 7.00
Hercules: The Legandary Journeys
(75551). 8.00 Coppers (7648). 8.30
Cops I (9483). 9.00 Cops II (37803).
9.30 The Serial Killers (28629). 9.30 The Serial Killers (28629). 10.00 Law and Order (74822). 11.00 The Red Shoe Diaries (49648). 11.30 The Movie Show (21803). 12.00 Wild Oats (26743). 12.30 LAPD (10694). 1.00 Dream

Play (1984897). 7.00pm Beverly Hills, 90210 (6634629). 8.00 Metrose Place (6643377). 9.00 Pacific Drive (6550613). 10.00 Tales from the Crypt (7249648). 10.30 Tales from the Crypt (7258396). 11.00 Stand and Deliver (2711667). 11.30 Stand and Deliver (7283803). 12.00-6.00am Hit Mix (9057743).

On (76410), 1.30 Smouldering Lust (99859), 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix Long

MOVIE CHANNEL 6.00am Treasure Island (19236). 8.00 The Oregon Trali (42342). 10.00 Fluke (33551). 12.00 Bandit Goes Country (38193), 2.00 Sec-ond Chance (63716), 4.00 Cernilla (3445). 6.00 Fluke (76280). 8.00 A Mother's Prayer (75209), 9.30 Behind the Scenes (44667), 10.00 Village of the Damned (250377). 11.40 Stuart Saves His Family (383984). 1.20 Not of This Earth (258743). 2.55 Made for Each Other (938323). 4.35-6.10am Sec-

ond Chance (33711236). 6.00am Grayeagle (19254). 8,00 Global Grayesga (19294). 8,00 Bigger Than Life (44700). 10,00 Missing Children: A Mother's Story (42209). 12,00 The Nutaracker (30551). 2,00 Young Sherlock Holmes (65174). 4,00 Little Glants (5903). 6,00 To. Contact Cont (5803). 6.00 The Great Outdoors (85938), 8.00 D2; The Mighty Ducks (80483), 10.00 Jason's Lyric 46551). 12.00 Virtual Desire (920762). 1.35 Deceived by Trust (7338526). 3.05 The Nutcracker (8988897). 4.35-6.10am Missing Children: A Mother's Story

SKY MOVIES GOLD 6.00pm Mutiny on the Buses (3429445): 8.00 No Way Out (3424990): 10.00-Rocky IV (9559174): 11.35 The Killer Elite (70857209). 1.40 Streets of Fire (2474859). 3.15 Return of the Bad Men* (3931946). 4.45-5.50am

SEY SPORTS 1 SIT SPERTS 1
7.00em Sports Special (14071).
7.30 Aerobics (20226): 8.00 Rugby (48290): 8.30 Racing (98731): 9.00 Super League (88342): 11.00 Hold the Back Page (15754): 12.00 Sports Saturday (67629): 2.00 Rugby (36162377): 4.15 Sports Saturday Results (2274006): 5.30 Superbies (99938): 6.30 Superbies (99938): 6.30 Superbies (99938): 6.30 Superbies triday Results (2274006), 5.30 Superbiles (93938), 6.30 Rugby (12754), 8.00 Ringside (264716), 10.30 Rugby League (22358), 12.00 Snowboard (71217), 12.30 Survival of the Fittest (65168), 1.00 Sports Special (98656), 1.30 Superbiles (52675), 3.00 Ringside (76168), 5.00-6.30am Superbiles (56287),

7.00am Socoer AM (8595990). 11.00 Golf (9553358). 1.00 Inside the PGA Tour (6084174). 1.30 kg Hackey (6564613), 4.00 Snowboard (6212280), 4.30 Survival of the Fittest (6218464), 5.00 World Sports (3597342), 5.30 NHL Powerweak (6166218), 6.30 toe Hockey Super-league (2853071), 9.00 Snogleb league (2853071). 9.00 Spanish Football (4323648). 11.00 World Cup Classic (8110358), 12:30-1.00am Futbol Mundial (9420746).

12.00moon Cricket - South Africa v Australia: Third Test (68239261). 3.30 Motorsport (88063377). 6.00 Golf: Turespart (GoVG377), BJ00 Golf: Turespara Masters (92064613), 9.00 Golf: Bay Hill Invitational (92734087), 11.00 PGA Seriors Golf (32939358), 11.30-12.00midnight World Sports (30640483),

C.Ouent Pri Money 6.30 Pashion 7.00 Sport 7.30 Sport Quiz 8.00 Pop Quiz 8.30 Looking for Love 8.45 Pet Squad 9.00 Revelations 9.30 Fashion 10.00 Agony 10.30 Bingo 10.45 Pet Squad 11.00 Trial TV 11.30 Fate and Fortuna 12.00 Why 12.30 Agony 1.30 Trial TV 2.00 Fashion 2.30 Agony 3.00 Fate and Fortuna 3.30 Pin Money 4.00 Looking for Love 4.30 Money 4.00 Looking for Love 4.30 Pop Quiz 5.00 Agony 5.30 Bingo 5.45 Pet Squad 6.00 Pashion 6.30 5.45 PET SQUAD 6.00 PASTIGIT 6.50 Sport 7.00 Pin Money 7.30 Sport Quiz 8.00 Bushido 9.00 Handy Hunks; Bingo 9.15 Bottom Ling 9.30 Seventies Pop 10.00 Topless Darks; Sport 10.30 Stand-Up 11.00 Topless Darts: Fate and Fortune 11.30 Sex 11.55 Erotica Exotica 12.30 Kiss TV

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Russia cuts its losses and agrees Nato link

Boris Yeltsin yesterday emerged from the two-day Helsinki summit having extracted few gains from Bill Clinton in his long campaign against Nato's move to expand into Central and Eastern Europe.

After a day of tough negoti-ations, the United States and Russia issued a joint declaration which indicated that Moscow had won few concessions over Nato expansion although it is now ready to sign an agreement defining a special relationship with the alliance.

However, the summit did produce limited progress on arms control and - in what was clearly intended to reinforce it's claim to be a world player - Russia moved closer to fulfilling its long-held ambition to become a member of the G7 nations. The statement said that,

while continuing to disagree over Nato enlargement, the US and Russia would "work, together and with others, on a document to establish a co-operative relationship between Nato and Russia as an important part of a new European

security system. But, crucially, the statement said that the agreement would be "at the highest political" level, omitting the term "legally binding". This means that it will not, as the Russians previously demanded, have to be ratified by the parliaments of the 16 member states of Nato.

The presidents agreed that Javier Solana, the secretary-general of Nato, and Yevgeny Pri-makov. Russia's Foreign Minister, should finish drawing up the Nato-Russia document in coming weeks, in order for it to be completed before July, when the alliance plans to unveil its new members - almost

certainly, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland – at a sum-mit in Machid.

Yesterday, Mr Yeltsin said that he understood that the document would be signed by all 16 Nato heads of state before Madrid - which suggests that both sides are now committed to reaching a final deal by then, bringing an end to a dispute that has been a source of political bitterness and tension for

Asked whether little progress had been made, the Russian president replied robustly: "Not

Earlier in the day, while the two presidents were still at the negotiating table in Mantyniemi, Finland's seaside presidential mansion, top Russian officials delivered a warning rinst any further advances by the alliance

"A discussion about further expansion would have tragic

consequences, not only in Russia but in all Europe," said Sergei Karaganov, of the pres-

"The Baltics would find themselves between two striking fists. Russia would lose trust, and the West would lose trust, and the Balts would lose

The Russian blast of rhetoric. which was clearly part of choreographed publicity plan, was less significant in its content, which were familiar, than in its timing.

It was intended to ensure that Mr Yeltsin was seen by Russians to be taking at a tough line. The loss of world status is a particularly sensitive wound domes-- and one into which the president's old adversary. Gennady Zyuganov, the Communist leader, was yesterday eagerly rubbing salt.

Boris Nikolavevich [Yeltsin] has not had any victories for a long time, except over his own



people and country," he said. "I don't believe in his international successes. Everything he does is

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linked to destruction. But the Kremlin's message was also a signal that – while the

Boris and Bill show was warmspirited enough - the Nato issue is far from closed.

The president's spokesman, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, also weighed in, pointing out mid-

talks that Mr Yeltsin's position on Nato had not changed, "not even in nuances". Such remarks were echoed by other Russia officials - including Boris Berezovsky, the powerful deputy head of the Security

> Helsinki by the Kremlin as part of a successful attempt to steal ican counterparts.

Council - who were invited to

completing his comeback after months of illness. The débacle over the US president's undignified arrival at

he could do nothing about the wheelchair to which he has been consigned after his fall at the golfer Greg Norman's However, Mr Clinton and Mr Yeltsin - meeting for the 12th

time in four years - made slightly better headway on arms conthe limelight from their Amer- trol, by agreeing guidelines for a Start III agreement which In this, they have been would reduce long-range mishelped by Mr Clinton, who siles to 2.000-2.500 warheads seemed content to allow Mr each by 2,007 - marking an 80 Yeltsin to play the starring role. per cent reduction compared with the height of the Cold War.

And Russia extracted a promise that the June summit in Denver, Colorado, of the G7, Helsinki on Thursday - being which the Russians have long offloaded from his aircraft by a aspired to join, will be called hydraulic FinnAir catering lor- "the summit of the eight".

Summit was triumph of substance over style

As US-Russian summits go, this was more important than any since 1990, yet without the tension and drama which characterised the most memorable encounters of Cold War times. One US official described Bill Clinton's talks with Boris Yeltsin as "the most substantive and intense they've ever had". and indeed profound matters were at stake - Nato's relationship with Russia, the future of European security and

nuclear arms control. Yet for all their differences. the emphasis was ultimately on co-operation as much as confrontation. In contrast to Richard Nixon's summits with Leonid Brezhney, or Ronald Reagan's meetings with Mikhail Gorbachev, the Helsinki summit lacked three vital ingredients to

he a truly gripping spectacle. First, the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991 and Russia's turn to free-market democracy have transformed the context. No summit these days can be a piece of chilling real-life theatre, pitting against each other two great ideological adversaries with the power to blow up the world several thousand times over.

Secondly, the impression of superpower equality projected by Cold War summits has palpably faded. Russia, for all its size and strength, is not in the same military or economic league as the United States, and Mr. Yeltsin's approach in Helsinki was dictated partly by resentment that the US and its allies are exploiting Russia's relative weakness to reconstruct Europe on their terms.

Lastly, despite their disagreements, familiarity has to some extent bred reassurance and lessened the scope for

anger. This was Mr Clinton's 12th meeting with Mr Yelisin since 1993; and besides, they exchange correspondence and talk on the telephone more often than probably any previous leaders in Washington and Moscow. The Helsinki summit was

therefore quite different from. say, the meeting which John Kennedy held with Nikita Khrushchev in Vienna soon after the young president's inau-guration in 1961. Before that summit. Kennedy was consumed with worry that Khrushchev would write him off as a shallow, soft-touch president incapable of defending the free world against the onward march of communism.

Khrushchev did indeed launch major challenges to the US, including the erection of the Berlin Wall and the attempt to deploy missiles in Cuba. But Kennedy's skillful and determined handling of the latter cri- Kuwait.

. .

Helsinki may have lacked drama, but issues of real

importance were discussed, writes **Tony Barber**

sis, coupled with his decision to greatly increase US involvement in Vietnam, left Khrushchev in little doubt about Kennedy's commitment to containing communism.

The Helsinki summit, staged in one of the world's most placid capitals, offered Mr Yeltsin little opportunity to en-gage in the kind of intimidating showmanship that Brezhnev put on for Nixon in Moscow. A lover of fast, luxurious Western cars. Brezhnev once drove his rival at hair-raising speed through the Russian woods, in a manic celebration of the detente era that was to jerk to a halt in the late Seventies.

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The most extraordinary summit was perhaps that of October 1986 in Reykjavík, where Mr Reagan, meeting Mr Gorbachev for only the second time, came close to agreeing to the abolition of all the world's nuclear weapons. Margaret Thatcher and other European leaders were horrified by what they saw as Mr Reagan's naive

Total nuclear disarmament



Boris Yeltsin: Wants to stay in the superpower league

has never been on a summit agenda since. But at Helsinki Mr Clinton and Mr Yeltsin discussed a US proposal to reduce each country's nuclear arsenal to 2,000-2,500 warheads from more than 10,000 in the late

Eighties. While recent US-Russian summits in Moscow and Washington may have lacked passion and urgency. Helsinki was the scene of a crucial encounter in 1990 between Mr Gorbachev and George Bush. This was when the US President sought Moscow's support for a US-led military campaign to drive Saddam Hussein's forces out of



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international

Next-door folk who man the Front line

Bois, a leafy fragment in the tanshopping-malls and factories in the north-eastern suburbs of Paris. The headquarters of Front National Département 93 - Seine St Denis - branch is a suburban house which has been allowed to fall into disrepair,

Inside, the walls are plastered with posters, including several examples of the FN popular employment. But the first poster one sees sums up the revised, fin-de-siecle dogma of the FN. It shows a large, crude dinosaur, a savage version of Barney in US colours, gobbling up French working people. The slogan is: "Globalisation - eater of work."

Michel Paulin, deputy head of the local party, is a retired chief salesman, aged 58. "We have nothing to hide." he says. "You see - no swastikas. No guns." He has just taken delivery of a new series of posters. which say: "Death penalty for child-killers". At my request, Mr Paulin has assembled a crosssection of his "militants" to discuss why they belong to the



expect a true cross-section. No men - have been chosen to give a foreign visitor the "right" idea. But that is what I wanted: to meet a cross-section of reone of its most successful breeding-grounds before the party's annual conference in

Strasbourg next weekend.

The "militants" range in age from 20 to 58, in occupation from municipal workers to an engineer and a self-employed accountant. They are all white - save one. The FN likes to parade its tiny minority of brown Edrom. 33, is an engineer. His father was from Guadeloupe, in the West Indies. He is not an immigrant, nor the son of an im-migrant, because Guadeloupe is part of France. He says his presence proves the FN is not racist: he belongs to it because



he has "a high idea of my coun- the US; not that the US was a try, as one of the major con-

civilisation in the world". Mr Edrom apart, it would be easy to caricature these men. Unhandsome; badly dressed; an atmosphere of personal depression. I have met them beore: supporters of the Ku Klux Klan leader turned politician Alan Duke, in Louisiana: supcourse, were convinced the world was a conspiracy against

conspiracy against the world. But the Frontistes are open

and friendly enough: they are not overtly racist; a man's skin does not matter, they say, his culture and behaviour do. To understand the success of the Front, and its dangers, it is important to bear this in mind: its leaders may be cynical and illintentioned but, at local level, porters of Ross Perot. They, of the Front's supporters look like are – the people next door.
 Michel Sellier, 56, a shabby,

self-employed accountant, says he is typical of the kind of people coming to the FN. He joined four years ago after having voted for every other party except the Communists, After the collapse of the Soviet Union, he saw there was a new threat to French identity in the world. "I saw the new world order being erected by the US, which was intolerant of other cultures. I looked around and saw nothing but American films on television; McDonald's; young people wearing jeans, baseball hats, playing rap music. I saw our jobs going abroad.

l saw immigrants who had no respect for our culturé. I looked for a party which could express and defend these ideas and saw only the Front National,"

I tease them about an FN publication on the origins of the French nation which has a drawing of Clovis (the Frankish king who reigned 481-511 and who founded the Merovingian monarchy) on the front resembling Bjorn Borg at his most hirsute. How many people in this misunderstand. Clovis was the origin of the French nation but he was a German: that was what

he looked like". Yes, but this resembles the worst kind of Aryan-nation propaganda by neo-Nazi parties in Britain, Germany or the US.

Mr Paulin brings me a picture of his daughter when she was about seven. She is blonde; but he is not. "That caused me a lot of problems ... " he said, guf-

The powe of Le Peri

fawing. "People jumped to the wrong conclusions." I try an-other tack. The job-eating US. dinosaur poster. Is that not exinto the unknown for all counroom, how many people in the might of the dollar is such France, look like that? "No you a threat man to they have agents; for thropean Union, a Entopean Single currency? Francos Bellaton, 58, an en-

gineer, says. "The Americans will never let the euro happen." Why not? "They will manipulate the markets to prevent it. because they will not tolerate anything which challenges the domination of the dollar." So he is in favour of the euro? (The FN officially is certainly not). "Non," he is "tout à fait contre, ' because he is against the Eu-ropean government of bureau-crats being plotted in Brussels.

But how would he defend France against the dollar? Can the franc stand alone against US-manipulated markets? No. they agree, probably not. There should be an arrangement to fix all European exchange rates permanently against one another. Yes, I said, it will be called the euro. No. they are against that because France must preserve its monetary independence and the franc must it was like arguing with a friend who has had a nervous breakdown. The anxieties are rooted in reality but magnified and distorted by some psycho-

* John Lichfield

Flight of Conde ended by fraud charge

Elizabeth Nash

Mario Conde, the flamboya Spanish banker sacked as supa mo of one of the country's ol est and grandest banks in 19 over a "black hole" of 13bn, h finally been sent to jail, thou on a relatively minor detail a swindle of mind-boggling pr

portions.
Charged with fraud and en bezzlement that unleashed the most spectacular banking cris the country has ever known, could eventually go down for years. But, in the first judici setback for the man who in the early 1990s was one of the mo glamorous and powerful figur in Spain, a court has now set tenced him to six years' in prisonment for pocketing £36 from the Spanish Credit Bar

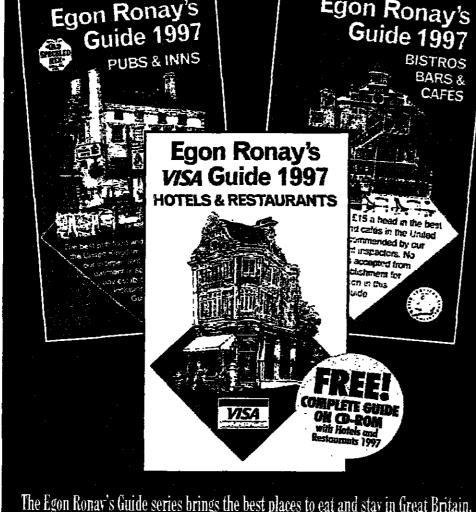
(Banesto). Conde, a former lawyer w conducted his own defend said he had paid the money m a trust in the Antilles to pe suade the government to grat favourable tax concessions. Buthe three judges who cordemned him said Conde's "1 nancial engineering was smokescreen of "puerile trick ery", and ordered him to pay th money back. The Banesto fund diverted into the shadowy Au gentia Trust simply disappeared presumably into Conde's £351

personal fortune.

The judgment is a heavy blot to Conde, who had hoped for small victory from which to fight back in the much bigge Banesto trial due this the sum mer. The verdict was greete lous relief that the man wider regarded as a brilliant and tuth less manipulator was finally to start paying for his misdeeds. Conde's magnetic personal

ity filled the Spanish stage during the country's brief specu lative boom in the mid-1980s and won the respect of every one that mattered, including King Juan Carlos. From a mod sponsibility for Banesto's stag gering debt, and claimed that political opponents had made him the "black sheep" of Span-

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Just in time, some facts come out of the dark

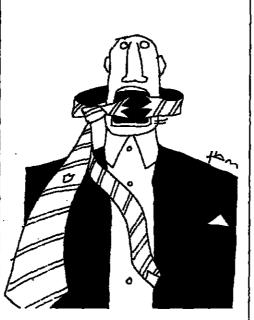
he decision of *The Guardian* to publish privately-obtained evidence on the conduct of MPs is a contempt. Whether the Commons judges it to be a contempt of Parliament remains to be seen; that may well be affected by the likely Labour domination of the Commons after the election. The Guardian's actions have helped Labour, and the party is unlikely to punish the paper for that timely assistance. But whatever Parliament decides, it was certainly an act of contempt in the non-legal sense: contemptuous of the Prime Minister's decision not to help speed up publication of the report and contemptuous of the actions of some of the MPs involved.

This newspaper shares that contempt and therefore applauds The Guardian's decision to publish the documents. They do not add greatly to the general state of knowledge or public belief about the individuals concerned, but they fill in fascinating detail. The MPs have complained that, because the paper has selected from a much larger mass of documents, the full story has not been told and they have been denied natural justice. This is not an argument to dismiss out of hand; we need to beware Salem always. But there are competing interests here. On the one hand, the dignities of Parliament and the rights of individual members, who are shortly to be candidates. But

on the other is the right of the public to know specific and important things about people putting themselves forward for election to the House of Commons - which is still, in spite of everything, our single most important institution.

By refusing to let the relevant committee sit on, John Major had deliberately and with calculation sought to deprive voters of this information. Accused MPs had protested, apparently sincerely, that they too wanted the report published before the election to clear the cloud of suspicion over them: so the leader of the Conservative Party was denying his party's prospective candidates the justice they claimed they needed. A very strange business indeed. We would have hoped that Parliament itself would have revolted at it; but we did not expect it to. Nor

So in these circumstances, The Guardian broke the rules, and it was right to do so, because it was acting in the wider public interest, exposing things which those in authority had wrongly tried to keep hidden. That attack yesterday provoked a counter-offensive of denials and injured protests from some MPs and indeed from Mr Major himself. But we can all now see what the Prime Minister wanted to be hidden during this campaign, and his moral authority on the subject is low, particularly after his eruption



of anger about "smears" in the House on Thursday.

What now? The first lesson is straightforward. Britain has ceased to be a country where things can be hushed up easily. Once upon a time, British businesses might have done favours for MPs, and had favours done in return, and no whistles would be blown, and no documents would have been leaked. Today, public servants are less deferential, many of the key business figures are non-Establishment outsiders - from the al Fayeds in one way, to Richard Branson in another - and the old SW1 omerta is impossible to guarantee. It may be that this passing generation of MPs has been more tainted than any other. It is equally possible that envelope-stuffing for MPs has been going on, in quiet corners, for years: we simply never

The second lesson is a subtler one, and partly answers the first. In this more open democracy, we have to stop thinking of MPs as a class. They are more varied than almost any other profession and it is important, as this sleaze story slithers on, to remember that some are dishonourable, and very many are not. A badly behaved backbencher or three should no more taint our view of politics generally than a bribe-taking official makes us give up on public life - or, dare we say it, an incompetent journalist should lead one to

assume that everything in the papers is non-sense. MPs generally have become butts of public ridicule and hostility. But if things have recently got out of hand, then we shouldn't blame only the miscreant members: the rest of us should be careful of our own reactions. As voters and democrats, we need to discriminate; discrimination, indeed, is our duty and our power.

Finally, there is a simple moral lesson, which has not changed much since the first humans sat in the back of a cave and traded arrow-heads. If you make a secret deal with anyone, you put yourself at their mercy forever. Only politicians with very little understanding of human nature would be happy to do this. After all, we all know that people fall out. Friendships sour. Business alliances shift.

Neil Hamilton, Tim Smith and the others who took money from Mohamed al Fayed seem not have understood that basic point. They gave away not just their independence, but also their political fates. For that almost unbelievable, bone-headed stupidity, if for nothing worse, they proved themselves failed politicians. Now that their electorates have the facts that Mr Major would rather have kept hidden this spring, we hope that the democratic machine will kick in, by kicking them out. We deserve better politicians

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■

Forced into cynicism by our undemocratic way of voting

Sir: A response from one cynic to your front-page article "An historic choice for Britain - the case against cynicism" (18 March).

I am not cynical by nature. I don't want to be cynical about British politics. But I've had cynicism thrust upon me by our uniquely undemocratic first-past-the-post

electoral system. When Douglas Hurd decided last vear to retire as MP for Witney at the forthcoming election, a handful of leading local Tories met in secret session to choose his successor. 🧸 They then announced to the press who the next MP for this safe Tory.

seat was to be. And the electorate? They will merely rubber-stamp the decision on 1 May. It is unthinkable that any other candidate could win.

There is no effective political system for the minority who will decline to vote Tory, no choice of Tory candidates so we can opt for the soft-leftic, nothing to discourage abject cynicism about the whole

MARK DORAN Dxford

Sir: There are many things that I hope will happen on polling day. One is that my vote, for once, will count. However I live in one of the many areas of the country where the constituency boundaries have changed beyond recognition. In order to apply my vote tactically I nced information specific to the new constituency area, since there is no

form. Am I likely to get it? - If I fail to receive data about how my candidates are faring vis-a-vis one another, I am considering adding to my cross on the voting paper the phrase "in fact, anyone but Mr ABC". I shall at least have the satisfaction of knowing that my message is going to be shown to the candidates in order to decide whether it will count as a vote or a spoiled paper. RICHARD WELCH

Sir: When Derek Young, a Liberal Democrat candidate, states (letter, 18 March) that the format of a TV debate between the party leaders would "reach daft proportions" if the Green Party etc were allowed to participate, is he accepting the logic behind John Major's wish to exclude the Liberal Democrats? That is, large political parties should be allowed to deny small parties a fair chance. It appears that the Liberal Democrats

are all for a stitch-up, provided they share in the stitching.

An alarming number of people are

finding nothing for them in any of the three "main" parties, and the young especially are not voting at all. To reinvigorate democracy and political thought, small, and nascent, political parties must be given the oxygen of a fair hearing. The public will sort out the genuinely good ideas from the cranky. If the old parties are to be allowed to pull up the drawbridge there is no hope for democracy. CHRISTOPHER PADLEY Market Rosen, Lincolnshire

Sir: Candidates from all parties must not forget that there are on average 10,000 disabled people in each constituency - which in marginal seats could be enough to influence the outcome of the election. But will disabled voters be able to get their local polling booth to cast their

Scope's research at the last election, found that only 12 per cent of polling stations were fully accessible for disabled people. This is an outrage. Scope calls on all parties to ensure that improvements are made this year to polling stations. access to public meetings and

election materials. If all 6.5 million disabled people in this country were able to exercise their democratic rights, we might see a real change in the country's political agenda: RICHARD BREWSTER Chief Executive Scope (formerly The Spassics Society) London W1

Sir. Like Pascal Smart ("I'll not vote - it won't change a thing", 18 March) I have no intention of voting for any political party. Unlike him I am not young (47) and have no interest one way or the other in the legalisation of drugs, or in the EU, single European currencies and so on. I am very interested in the planet that I live on

and its future. The only reason I am likely to vote will be for a party who will tackle global warming, environment and habitat destruction and address the carpublic transport issue to the benefit of all. I realise that global warming is a worldwide problem but a start has to be made somewhere, and soon, and here is as good a place as any. When these problems are addressed I may possibly take an interest in the other issues which feature prominently in election campaigns.
NOEL CORRALL



Photograph: Adam Butle Sunlight' on the side?

Major's clean political platform

Sir: Anyone born before the Second World War should be able to answer Jean Ma beson's inquiry about the origins of Mr Major's portable podium (letter, 21 March). In the 1930s wooden boxes in my parents' house were invaluable containers for bricks and other toys for the children, and useful for keeping oddments together in cellar or

tool-shed. The ones I remember had "Port Sunlight" stamped on the sides, with the rays of the rising sun and a lifebelt or Lifebuoy emblem, in red and black I think, identifying the brand of soap and its maker. The bottoms were made of two broad

slats, but the sides were strongly jointed at the corners, creating a solid container, rectangular in

I don't know when these boxes went out of use but I believe all the packaging was cardboard when I worked briefly in Pears' soap factory after the war. At all events, prewar soaphoxes were very serviceable and quite strong enough to stand on if you turned them upside down. They would raise you some 22 centimetres off the ground, or 9 inches as some members of the Conservative Party might prefer to say.
NIGEL GLENDINNING London E3

Intimidation on the train

Sir: If I was dismayed by Mrs Johnson's story (letter, 19 March), I was horrified by Ivor Warburton's response (20 March) on behalf of Virgin West Coast Trains.

Just how does he propose that a mother should check that those around her are comfortable with her feeding a baby? Should the inquiry be addressed to those in adjoining seats, those across the aisle or should all those passing through the carriage also be given the opportunity to

Breast-feeding is a perfectly natural biological function and attitudes such as those expressed by Mr Warburton only serve to intimidate women who wish to offer the best possible source of nourishment to their babies.

I hope that Virgin will rethink this policy. Does it also apply to Dr SÜE GORDON Morpeth, Northumberland

Sir: It must be nearly 50 years since I breast-fed my baby on the train from Manchester to London, Covered by a large shawl I had no trouble at all; in fact I think the other passengers in a full carriage were both sympathetic and interested. How silly can some men get?

ALISON LEAKEY Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire

Sir. What a perverted society we live in when a young woman is castigated for breast-feeding her baby on a train, yet other young women are paid large sums of money for displaying their over-developed mammary glands on the third page of a popular daily paper!

ANNE MARTIN Haywards Heath West Sussex

Dapping in Ireland

Sir: The main reason for the familiarity of the cheap black plimsolls known as "daps" in South Wales (Letters, 18-21 March) was that they were worn all the time (not just for games) by kids whose families could not afford boots, as in my own primary school in the Thirties.

Certainly "dap" meant "bounce". both noun and verb. The only other usage I know is in trout-fishing, where 'dapping" is a method used on Irish loughs in which a large mayfly is bobbed or bounced across the surface using an ultra-long rod and gossamer R PERROTT

London N5

LETTER from THE EDITOR

showing the gap between Labour and the Tories down to just five points. Also, as everyone who is anyone now knows. there is a serious sex scandal about to break which involves senior members of the shadow cabinet, a Russian actress and some furry animals. There are reports that Neil Hamilton is defecting to New Labour and will be publicly welcomed by Tony Blair. Oh yes. And a small difference between genbreak out in the British-mandated Georgiou Islands.

Only joking. But it would take all of the above to convince people that this election was going to be a down-to-thewire, close contest. And what alarms the news business generally is that voters won't want to read or watch the six-week game, if they think they know the result. It's a lazy and undemocratic reaction, since the parties will be laying out detailed plans which will affect our lives, and these are the weeks when they are most open to challenge. All we can do is promise you

plenty of election-free coverage to refresh you, and ensure that the real issues are teased out and fully argued over. I notice that it tends to be older readers who are most interested. The ignorance of younger voters about the democratic system is worrying: though no fan of loading ever more on to the national curriculum, a proper course in civics and political education seems essential. Democracy is not bred in the bone. It has to be learned, and defended. If we don't test our would-be rulers now, we can hardly complain about the government we'll get later.

We are popular, it seems. The Daily Telegraph is shamelessly mimicking The Independent's masthead and slogans in an attempt to bribe readers away: the house newspaper of right-wing Tory Catholies chirpily proclaims itself "independent At Wapping, meanwhile, the editor of The Times is belatedly trying the independence game. arguing that though he agrees with Tory policies, the Tory party seems likely to lose, and

Te have secret polls therefore he may be obliged to which we shall be change sides. (So long as change sides. (So long as revealing next week Rupert lets him.) What, meanwhile, of The Guardian, one paper which because of its longterm leftism, could least plausibly get involved in such mimicry? Well, this week. advertising its election coverage, it too decided it was "truly independent".

While welcoming sinners repenting, and noting that we shooting war may be about to uine independence of spirit.

10

las

The Sun's excited conversion to the cause of New Labour has left not a dry eye in the house. It has been one of the funniest things in

and pre-election sales gimmickry. Judging by our recent sales, quite a few others think

journalism for years

At the tabloid end of the market, The Sun's excited conversion to the cause of New Labour has left not a dry eye in the house. It has been one of the funniest things in journalism for years.

But given that The Sun was lured into Blair's camp by his Union Jack-waving article about the iniquities of Eurofederalism, this is surely bound to end in real tears. Within weeks of taking office, a Labour cabinet would have to take key decisions about the intergovernmental conference and give equally clear signals about monetary union. Nothing I have heard makes me think those decisions and signals will

please the anti-European Sun in the least. And if it is forced to make another 180-degree turn, the fact that it has been made to look a fool this spring will stoke its anger to purple-faced

Andrew Marr

1 - 2

'Lads' of the TUC win fair deals for women at work

Castle Acre, Norfolk

Sir. Diane Covie, in an otherwise interesting discussion of the labour market ("Listen lads - women's work counts too", 20 March), misrepresents a new TUC report to suggest that the TUC is interested

only in full-time male workers. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The TUC has been campaigning in the courts, in Parliament, in Brusse and in the media to improve the lot of part-time workers. Thanks to union campaigning part-timers can no longer be excluded from company pension schemes and the Government was forced to reduce the qualifying period for part-timers to gain protection against unfair dismissal to the same two-year period as for full-timers. TUC research then showed that this had no adverse effect on part-time jobs, contrary to the warnings of

Our campaigning for a minimum wage, the Working Time Directive and the Social Chapter promise to bring real henefits to women parttimers, who are the lowest paid and

least likely to have paid holidays. Our report was spurred by claims

that the UK is a rip-roaring success because it has more people in work than other countries. What we found was that this was due to there being fewer young people in full-time education than elsewhere, more people working when they are past retirement age and, yes, there being more parttime workers here than in most other EU countries. The UK is no better than others at creating the quality jobs that men and women need to give them the kind of income required to bring up families and save for retirement. JOHN MONKS General Secretary Trades Union Congress

London WC1 Sir: A "real job" is one that maintains the worker doing the job, his partner and all the kids they've produced

between them. Five million women aren't "taking advantage of the flexible labour market". Diane Coyle and her middle-class mates might be, but the overwhelming majority of women working part-time are topping up the inadequate wages of

the men in their lives. The Labour Party is right: real jobs are breadwinner jobs.
JUDITH BURNS

Sir. Diane Coyle omits to mention the Conservatives' double standard. New part-time jobs are included in the total for job creation, whereas those without a job who are actively seeking part-time work are conveniently left out of the published memployment figure.

Department of Health Sciences

Alcuin College, University of York

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

BBC gets a good price for programmes

Sir: I was interested to read your comment (18 March) following the signing of the BBC /orldwide/Flextech joint venture.

You suggested that the Flextech investment, which, incidentally, could be as much as £150m, "might seem like a rather small price to pay for all those billions of pounds worth of licence-fee investment". You further suggested that this could be seen as "giving away a highly valuable commodity for next to

nothing". This implies both a misunderstanding of the structure of the joint venture and of the fair trading arrangements which underpin the separation of BBC Worldwide finances from our licence fee-funded activities.

The joint venture will, from day one, pay BBC Worldwide the full

market value for programmes

licence agreement that has been negotiated. This will provide an immediate return on the licence navers' investment in programmes and generates further funds for our programme-makers serving both BBC1 and BBC2. In addition, when the joint venture moves into profitability.

supplied under the programme

there will be a further income stream back to the BBC from any distributable profits agreed by the board, and of course the BBC will also be participating in the creation of valuable assets in the channels we create, as has been amply demonstrated by the valuation placed upon UK Gold.

This seems to me to suggest that the BBC has done a very good deal for the licence fee-payer, the BBC's programme-makers and BBC Worldwide. R W PHILLIS Deputy Director-General

Chief Executive, BBC Worldwide

I doubt now whether anything can stop machines taking over our world - Kevin Warwick, professor of cybernetics, Reading University I don't love the country. I want to go back because I love the people – Han Dongfang. Chinese dissident who was imprisoned and tortured after Tunanmen Square

QUOTE UNQUOTE

l am happy to get out of the House of Commons - John Prescott. Labour's deputy leader, as he embarks on his nationwide election tour The French are nostalgic for their royalty, you know, it's partly guilt. They killed their parents and they will never get over it -Prince Henri d'Orleans, heir to the non-existent French throne We keyed in the Prince's name and the only thing that came up was a pub in Seattle. I think Charles was a little distressed - Mar-tyn Lewis, BBC newsreader, describing an incident when he showed

the Prince of Wales around an Internet facility for youngsters They are very popular, lots of people like them. They are very hairy and take up lots of leg room - they've got 32 legs - spokeswoman at Dudley Zoo, where four turantulas have been named, in honour of the election, John. Tony, Paddy and Alex, after the party leaders I must have been the unlikeliest sex symbol ever. You couldn't see my face, but I was bombarded with letters from lovely ladies everywhere - Dave Prowse, who played Darth Vader behind a mask 1: 1:

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free it may be, but for Reggie **Nadelson** Oscar night is about winning, about hope -

Tasteless

a hat America has always had the wit, talent and money to make good and sometimes great movies is self-evident. That it expresses this at Oscar night – is maybe less plain. I don't care. I love Oscar night. Oscar is the biggest night of the year at my house, everyone laying bets, yelling at the TV set, guzzling beer and wine, eating popcorn and Reese's Peanut Butter Cups. Out there are parties where people actually know the stars. At my house someone always has a friend who is the third cousin of the art director on the animated short subject. I don't care. I love Oscar more than I love the 4th of July, more than Halloween or Valentine's Day because Oscar is our honours list, our knighthoods. What's more, even here in Manhattan. Oscar night has almost no irony, which means you can indulge in high emo-

and about one helluva

party at her place

tion and low taste. The thing about Oscar is that it's about winning and we are talking archetypes here, we are talking a Pindaresque ode to the guy who wins the big race. It's no surprise that so many Oscars go to actors and movies who win the race, some-

times literally. Take Jerry Maguire. This is a comedy about a sports agent played by Tom Cruise. In it, Cruise loses all, then wins it all back and he's good. really good. Cruise has become a real movie star because he does what he does brilliantly, no more, no less. He works a very small territory with the determination of a prospector who has a small but fabulous allotment. But the real joy of the picture is Cuba Gooding, Jr. nominated for Best Supporting Actor. In Jerry Maguire, Gooding really is the guy who wins the race, or. in this case, the \$11.4m football deal.

This is Gooding's first hig part and he is hilarious and surprising in it, an actor who, at five foot 10, went up for the part of a monster football player and won it. Another Oscar archetype. Give us a speech, Cuba, and make it long, No Oscar speech worth its statuette should be less ive minutes or contain fewer than 22 repctitions of the word "love" and/or "wunnerful." Unless it is political. Political is OK if you make the night one to remember. Remember when Brando sent a Native American maiden to collect his Oscar? When George C Scott turned his

down? I love it. You want odds? We give odds at my Oscar party along with the roast chicken and the mozzarella sandwiches. Odds on which star shows the most bosom. Odds on which outfit will be



Shone and Quincy spirit of honours list. Cuba Gooding ja (below left). favourite for the long, Britvom

hy I love the Oscars

the most tasteless. Actually, in recent years the clothes have been worryingly tasteful. Most of the women get themselves Armani'd to the eye-balls or cloaked in the Stalinist simplicity of Calvin Klein. In the bad old days, you could count on at least one starlet for some T&A, you could count on Streisand for see-through and

Not only do I love Oscar, I like pre-Oscar, the period before the awards proper when the stars parade into the ball in their evening clothes in the hot California sun. I can't remember which year it was, but once, during the television pre-Oscars, Oprah Winfrey was on hand, as I recall. What would you call that colour," she gushed staring into the cleavage of some starlet who replied: "I call it the colour purple."

Nobody's immune to Oscar. Last year. Randy Newman, the most ironic songwriter in America, got up on stage and played his nominated song. He wants to win. Everyone wants to win. even the British and this year there are a lot of them. And do the self-effacing, self-deprecating, ironic Brits back modestly into the limelight? They do not, thank God. They are out there whooping it up.

Secrets and Lics, Fargo, Sling Blade, Shine, it's a weird year, really. So many of the films are lit-

tle movies, independent movies, good movies, British movies. So many of the actors and directors are British, although I think it's a shame. Evita was overlooked probably out of spite. There's always spite on Oscar night, especially where great big stars are concerned. This year Evita and Madonna got the spite vote.

Anyhow, you can split a lot of hairs over the British business. The English Patient, for instance, a hot Oscar favourite - is it British? Is it American? Canadian? Is The English Patient Hun-garian? Who put up the money, where's the beef? Who cares? Myself, I don't care if the flick comes from Burkina Faso or the money's Andorran, so long as it makes me laugh, makes me cry, keeps me entertained for a couple hours.

The tasty thing about so much British talent on tap at Oscar time, however, is it proves how classy the American movie biz really is. It flies right in the face of all those critics who, at Oscar time, claim the American business is spoiled and philistine. It gives no comfort to London luvvies. anti-American division, who generally break out into a pustulant little outburst

around Oscar time. Can we talk? I want Geoffrey Rush for best actor. I want him because Shine is a wonderful movie and Rush an unlikely star. I also want him because it's a breakthrough role in the Oscar Goes Disabled Category. For the most part, actors in these roles depend on spectacular physical tics; for the most part the movies are pretentious. I'm talking Rain Man or of male magazines. In fact, the real world of My Left Foot or The Piano. But Rush makes his character charming, sexy even, a guy you want to know even when he's busy cracking up.

ulation, Oscar often favours not just the disabled but the dead. Also the nearly dead. The TRIBUTE to those who have died the previous year is one of my favourite features on Oscar night. Then there are the special awards. the lifetime awards, the stars barely standing who are wheeled on to standing ovations. I love it. The physically impaired, the near-dead - Hol-

Thile I'm on the subject of self-congrat-

lywood loves them at Oscar time. But there's nothing it loves more than a tale with a social. message. This year it's The People vs Larry Flynt. Larry Flynt is a movie that's not only sinfully dishonest in the alleged cause of free speech,

it's also very dull. Drab. It concerns Larry Figut, the founder and editor of Hustler magazine who, paralysed from the waist down in a shooting,

went on fighting for his right to publish hard porn. Flynt against the censors. Flynt who took a stand.

There's a problem. Milos Forman's picture, which stars Woody Harrelson, celebrates the First Amendment, but it tells a crappy lie in order to do it. The film portrays Larry Flynt as a cuddly pornographer, a kind of free-love hippie who merely added some softfocus spread shots to the world

Larry Flynt and Hustler would have meant photographs of women gang-raped, of women lashed to cars, women put through meat grinders, women, if I remember right, in concentration camp scenes. All for the sake of pornography. Call it free speech. But a real por-trayal of Flynt's world would have meant an Xrating for the film and you don't win an Oscar with an X

OK. Enough about Flynt: It's late. By 10 on Monday evening, the action at my house will be heating up. People on the edge of their chairs.
People falling asleep on the table, as after a large
Christmas dinner. Will The English Patient win?
Secrets and Lies? Lauren Bacall? The smart money in New York is on Bacall, of course.

But what does it all mean, the outfits, the tearstained speeches, the golden statuettes? It's about winning. The Oscars, the Olympics, the gold rolling in. This year, it's also about the little guy, the underdog, the foreign actor, the per-son nobody ever heard of or bet on who comes up a winner. A star is born. It's another great story. I love it.

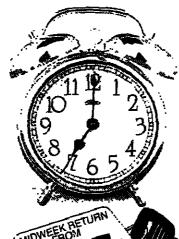
So much part of the yearly cycle of life is Oscar night that the phrases have entered the vernacular. I was talking to someone recently and he said: "Well, of course, she's unhappy she wasn't nominated," and I never had to ask, "nominated for what?"

It could just be that Oscar has replaced the Presidency as the ultimate goal. That out there at Oscar parties all over the country people are sitting around staring at the guy in the tux, the babe in the beautiful dress, and thinking, who knows? Maybe one of these days I'm going to get an Oscar. One day maybe my book will be made into a movie, the movie nominated and, come Oscar night, the winner is

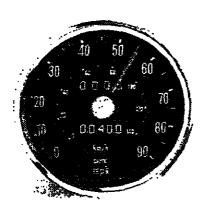
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jo brand's week

supporting Labour. It's enough to make you want to vote Tory. It describes the Torics as tarnished with sleaze, riddled with soundal and beset by fools". That sounds quite like The Sun to me.

Despite the trumpeting on the front page, inside the paper the adoration was decidedly lukewarm. The Labour party are warned about the dangers of going against what The Sun wants them to do. It's tragic that this rag sees itself as important enough to dictate its simplistic spurious terms in a pseudoserious fashion. As for Tony Blair saying he's absolutely delighted with their support -I couldn't physically have got the words out of my mouth.

While I'm on the subject of The Sun, it was interesting to see how it treated two similar stories of sexual harassment this week. One involved a driving instructor, old, balding and unattractive, touching a woman's breasts. The other, a horse trainer, no doubt rich, with hair and not unattractive, pinching a female jockey's bum on live television. The first incident was described in terms of lechery and perversion, whereas the

good fun and a bit of a laugh. So, women, if you're going to sue for sexual harassment, try and make sure the bloke's not

did a show in London on

Wednesday night and just as a matter of interest asked the audience which of them would vote Labour. A muted response, perhaps five voices out of a hundred, greeted my ears. "Blimey," I thought, "I've got myself a Tory audience here." Wrong, An even less enthusiastic response greeted that question. "Right." I said, "who's not going to bother to vote at all?" The place erupted. Looks like the

Gena Lee Noian, one of those adored and slobberedover women, "a Baywatch Babe", is to make the ultimate sacrifice for her fans and give birth to her baby live on the Internet. There will be computers in the delivery room, supplying sound of Gena in labour. She wanted pictures of the birth to be available to her fans as well. but thankfully her husband has talked her out of this.

much cop to look at and skint.

comedy-going population are swamped with political apathy.

How delightful that such a private and intimate moment will be captured for all the Net nerds to hear and savour.

Given that there is so much porn on the internet, it seems likely that many uninformed teenage boys may well stumble across this and assume that the grunts are due to an altogether more salacious practice. Don't do it, Gena. listen to your old man (and I don't say that very often)

The Sex Education Forum said this week that boys' sex education should be taken more seriously by schools, because boys may be scared to show their ignorance and this could be dangerous, as the traditional method of learning about sex, for boys, tends to be in groups behind the bike sheds. Fair point, and while

they're about it perhaps they could tackle the ability of males to discuss emotional issues, respect for women and numerous issues of peer group pressure which make teeriage

boys behave like cavemen.

The poor old Church of England has been forced into advertising itself to try to stem the tide of people seeking spiritual succour elsewhere. They also want to attract young people to the church, so have used the same old acquisitional images that are used to sell anything from beer to aftershave. Therefore, you have a BMW thrown inand some people dancing at a club in London called the Ministry of Sound.

For once, though, those starring in the advert have not taken the huge fees normally

associated with selling your soul to the highest bidder. I suppose God would have been none too pleased if they'd all nipped out and actually purchased a BMW

on the proceeds.
Unfortunately, any
teenagers, attracted by the ad. once they actually get to church will find it's the same old dull and ancient set-up it was at harvest festival, the time lots of us last set foot in the old place.

It seems that Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes, may have perpetrated the Piltdown Man hoax, as revenge on the scientific establishment, men he resented because they had attacked a psychic he admired Conan Doyle was a well-known practical joker. My favourite story about him is the one in which he sent a postcard to several of his friends which said, "We are discovered. Flee." Even though he had just made this up, a friend of his did make off to the Continent, leaving a question-mark over what he

was actually involved in. Anyone who houses the scientific establishment is all right by me. These geezers in white coats are far too smug most of the time.

ou wanna hear naive? This is naive: "It was so minor. One cross word. In the context of one's daily hassles it was something that you would consider to be completely irrelevant."

The astonished speaker was 34-year-old Mark Girling. The irrelevant word was had with his neighbour the Hon Hugh Donovan, and it concerned parking in the haut-bourgeois enclave of Felden Street, Fulham.

As a consequence of this brief encounter Mr Girling's Porsche and Mr Girling's Range Rover-were scratched or dented on many occasions over 13 months. Mystified as to who could be behind these attacks, Mr Girling eventually prevailed upon the local plod to mount a surveillance operation.

One night a video-camera caught the 63-year-old Hon barrister sneaking out under cover of darkness and vandalising his neighbour's expensive vehicles.

I call Mr Girling's surprise "naive", because it is all too obvious to me why one cross word might lead to someone assaulting his motors. In fact, many of us underachievers would need no cross words at all to want to express our dismay that a 34-year-old should be able to afford both

a Porsche and a Range Rover. Furthermore, a photograph of the Range Rover shows that Mr Girling has retained the infamous bull bars, increasing the likelihood that any accident involving a child (God forbid!) might be fatal. Frankly, most of us have some motive for running our... about parking in a housing Yales down Mr Girling's

Mr Girling - doubtless a good and innocent man - may not have understood how his vehicular statements affect hers. Surely, though, he must comprehend that to have a dispute with one's neighbours about parking ~ be it ne'er so minor – spells

big, big trouble.
In my little London street we have historically been blessed with great parking. Many fellow residents are Liberal Democrats, and have tended to travel everywhere. by bicycle. Others are young. and have had little need for a car. But just recently this has begun to change. Babies have been born in extraordinary numbers, and behind the stork comes the car. Those with none, get one. Those with one, get another for the nanny. A street in which each

dismissed it on a technicality. She

should have started the action within

three months of the birth. In fact, she

failed to do this because, after reject-

ing her baby at first, she had had to fight social services for custody. Women often do not know that

they must act quickly if they want to

suc a hospital trust, and have to con-

sider the pros and cons while in the hazy, exhausting and emotionally topsy-turny first 12 weeks of mother-hood, when those who have been

traumatised by labour may have conflicting feelings about their babies, replay what was done to them over

and over again in their minds, and find it impossible to make decisions.

Incredibly, the judge did not seem to see that to detain in a psychiatric hospital a woman who wants a home

birth, and then perform a compulsory Caesarean section on her, might be a matter of public interest. If he had, he

might have decided that the important issues raised when a woman is operated on against her will should

outweigh late application. Ms S will

of us has grown accustomed to parking outside our very own doors has become one in which such an outcome is

statistically most unlikely. None of this has broken out into feud - yet. True, we recently reported an old, dumped Honda with an outof-date licence disc to the council, and made the mistake of boasting about our Straw-style

communitarianism to our next-door neighbours. "It was ours", they confessed gloomily, and we got a £40 inc." Oh, how we laughed!

Having discussed this with friends, I feel sure that this is the coming issue - in towns, at any rate. We all have the same symptoms: feelings of anger that people without children should park outside the houses of those with them; a tendency to repark one's car in a more favourable spot whenever the opportunity presents itself (I wait by the window for the sound of an engine); fury at being frozen out of the residents' parking areas of Chelsea, while no similar interdict applies to those few? Chelses motorists seeking to park in Kentish Town; the occasional foray to leave a tart, anonymous note on the windscreen of any car left parked across one's house for

a whole weekend. Excetera. But where does this lead? Returning to Felden Street for a moment, one elderly resident was quoted as saving that the car-scratcher had "brought in the tactics of the council estate". Little did this woman know that a dispute estate in Kemsley, Kent, recently climaxed in a pitched battle involving a shotgun and

a baseball bar.
There is, of course, no legal entitlement to park outside -or in any proximity to - one's own home. The regulation of such social relations depends entirely on voluntary agreement between private citizens. In other words, there are no rules. What I may consider to be antisocial behaviour - forcing me to drag £150-worth of Safeway shopping plus three screaming kids across a dog-turd-decorated street - may seem utterly reasonable to my

hard-working neighbour. It is in precisely these circumstances that respectable lawyers (or journalists for that matter) haunt the streets at night, screw-driver or paint-stripper in hand.



Downright bad boys or just men in need of some guidance? Danny Baker, Chris Evans and Paul Gascoigne take some relaxation

How to be a real man without the spewing

vey two of the Spice Girls are not getting any. And poor old Mel C was driven to admitting on television that though she felt broody, she hadn't found a suitman of her dreams, then who

Let's assume that as in past generations the majority of them nill seek out a Mr Right. But the feminist joke now goes that men are like public lavatories - either desirable but occupied or vacant but useless. Of course we could solve the problem by the more efficient use of the "occupied" what captains of industry call "sweating the assets". However, I can't quite see polygamy catching on, especially not among overpaid, the worst young women. Who wants to be on the romantic equivalent of the substitutes' bench?

So let us turn to the vacant but useless. As if by magic, the picture of three young men stag-gering from a London club swims before our eyes. Lads' icous Danny Baker, Chris Evans, and Paul Gascoigne were splashed across the tabloids this week, bleary-eyed and blowsy after a night's drinking. I can see Scary Spice's dilemma if this really is the face of Britain's young men. We know that girls are out-

the gap is getting wider. Forecasters predict that women will start to catch up in status and pay, even at higher levels in industry. With the decline of manufacturing, men are heading able father. She answers to the in the opposite direction. name Scary, but she is attractive Inevitably, women will expect and wealthy. If she can't find the more from their partners. The men just aren't up to it.

Well, maybe not. Let us return On average, two out of five single British women say that they are not in relationships. to the now notorious photograph. I will for the moment leave Gascoigne out of consideration; until he is cleared of the against women as readily as he uses his feet on a ball,

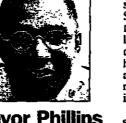
he need not occupy our attention. Imagine instead that the third figure were Arsenal's Ian Wright, and you have a trio of bad boys - arrogant, possible role models.

madness gave BBC

performing boys at school, right up to university level, and that

Baker's moment of

bosses no option but to sack him. Evans' megalomania made him impossible to work with. Wright's volatile temperament, which has now left him suspended for several games, deprived him of a regular England shirt. Whatever little boys are made of, these three and thousands of others like them have it in bucket-loads. The conventional wisdom is that they grow out of it, and that family life will mellow them. There is



Trevor Phillips

unfortunately no evidence that this holds true for many young men. These young men may be

Inevitably, women will expect more from their partners. Are the men up to it?

> performer. Wright is the striker that England should have had through the past decade. Both are affable, intelligent, and not in the least bit loutish in person. I don't know Evans personally. but he is an authentic broadcasting genius. All three are talents in the arena that will help to drive our economy in the next fifty years - entertainment and

The nation's biggest earner. finance and business services, has been built by exactly the churches, the armed forces. same sort of awkward talent. Snobbish talk of barrow-boys in the City and financial scandals have obscured the fact that deregulation blew away the dead hand of the upper classes and allowed in people without manners, but with huge vigour and inventiveness.

I am not arguing that we for a new TV channel, features should ignore boorish behav- a presenter on the left with the iour, stupidity or wrongdoing, words on the right: "You'll soon Not every lout is a potential lan be going to bed with this man". Wright. Not every whin a BMW will be a George Soros. But by Tony Blair on the left and the bad examples. But they are also dismissing the bad boys we may good examples. Baker is a bril-well be dismissing much of the Tories' attack on Labour's liant scriptwriter and gifted radio talent we will rely on in the It's time to pay

some urgent attention to our boys. We can no longer knock off the rough edges by war or a turn in the colonies. But we need to know why so many of them are being excluded

need to find ways of being real men that don't involve regular spewing and head-butting, And most of all we need to prepare boys to be decent husbands and fathers.

As much as I resist the automatic importation of American solutions to British problems. the drive in North America for a serious and committed programme of mentoring of teenagers by older men is pay-ing dividends. It works through

Back to grammar school for the **Tories**

hat is the second on adverbs? To judge from the recently unveiled campaign slugan of the Conservative party, the smack of firm grammar is not a high priority. "You can only be sure with the Conservatives," is their battle cry, but surely that "only" is in the wrong place.

The correct placing of "only has been a matter of debate for more than 200 years. In 1762, Robert Lowth wrote: "The Adverb, as its name imports, is generally placed close or near to the word, which it modifies or affects, and its propriety and force depend on its position." He then contrasts the two sentences: "I only spake three words" and "I spake only three words". Fowler, writing in 1926, is particularly impatient when quoting one pedant who insisted on putting "only" next to the word it qualifies: "There speaks one of those friends from whom the English language may well pray to be saved, one of the modern precisians who have more zeal than discretion, and wish to restrain liberty as such, regardless of whether it is harmfully or harmlessly exercised." Fowler generally advises us to put "only" wherever we like, as long as we avoid confusion.

In the Longman Guide to English Usage, however (Penguin, 1996), Sidney Green-baum and Janet Whitcut, who are generally on the liberal side of grammatical pedantry, advise: 'In formal writing, 'only' should come next to the word it qualifies." Consider, therefore, the different meanings of "Only John unveiled the slogan (nobody else did); "John only unveiled the slogan" (he can't be held responsible for writing it); and "John unveiled only the slogan" (not the entire manifesto).

The question about only being safe with the Conservatives, therefore, comes down to two points: is it a formal, or informal statement; and is it sufficiently ambiguous to cause confusion?

When they say: "You're only safe with the Conservatives" do they mean you're not safe with mean, is there any chance that anyone encountering the phrase might take it literally to mean that you're only safe with the Conservatives." You're not welloff, you're not healthy, you're not educated with the Conservatives, but you are safe. If there is even a small chance that any voter could believe that, then they really ought to have put only" in the right place.

cs

William Hartston

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going to bed with the Labour leader. Is this what Labour's

spokeswoman for women meant

when she said that we'd be more

promiscuous under Mr Blair's

government? Maybe Soury Spice

should think again about voting

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A battle for control of women's bodies ast week a judge threw out the case of Ms S, the woman who was compulsorily "sectioned" under the Mental Health Art and then for a baby to be born and who lay down strict time limits. They turn birth into a race to the finishing-post, with operative delivery the penalty when had a court-enforced Caesarcan. He labour does not meet their norm.

> followed by interventions that screwed up the normal physiology of labour, resulted in a need for Caesarean section when the cervix did not dilate. Epidurals, especially if given before 5cm dilatation, double the Caesarean rate. But the main culprit is electronic foetal monitoring. That can increase the chance of Caesarean section by an astonishing 160 per cent. A costly technology that has become routine in most hospitals, without any evidence that it makes birth safer, leads to

costly surgery. Obsterricians often say that the rise in Caesareans is due to the threat of litigation. If something bad happens to a baby, it is safer to show that you did something rather than nothing, and getting the knife out is an obvi-ous way to demonstrate concern.

But a major reason why the Caesarean rate is shooting up is that obstetricians have become deskilled. Older ones know how to deliver a breech baby vaginally. Midwives in traditional cultures massage and coax babies into more favourable positions through the mother's abdominal wall. Younger obstetricians are not experienced enough to do this, and think it is not worth the bother. Yet six randomised, controlled trials have shown that two out of three babies can

be turned, and will stay head down. This halves the rate of Caesareans. Even if a baby stays in the breech position there is no evidence that a Caesarean is safer, and around half of all mothers of breech babies can give

Women are grateful that their babies have been "saved" by a Caesarean, birth vaginally if they have the chance. not realising that the way labour was Two randomised trials have shown 'managed', starting with induction, that breech babies do not benefit from Caesarean section, and their mothers are much more likely to suffer pelvic infection.

Some Caesareans are life-saving. Others aren't, but the decision is often imposed on the mother. She feels relief, and only later questions whether it was necessary. Many women become distressed a couple of months after an emergency Caesar-ean, feel cheated, lose self-esteem and suffer flashbacks and panic attacks.

Not a week passes but I listen to women's accounts of horrendous experiences of obstetric management. They describe being made to lie on their backs for hours harpooned to electronic machines, intravenous drips and catheters, often being subjected to failed forceps and ending up with an emergency Caesarean section. It is reasonable for women who have been through an experience like that to pre-fer an operation under controlled conditions with guaranteed pain relief. Modern obstetric management has made the birth room a torture chamber, and offers release from it with

elective Caesarean section. But it is not only deeply traumatised women who opt for Caesareans. Most women, if told by an obstetrician that a Caesarean is best for the haby, go along with professional advice. Obs-

tetricians see operative delivery as a quick-fix solution to ever-widening An obstetrician once snapped at me that he couldn't stand back seat

drivers. He meant women who had ideas about what they wanted in childbirth. He had to be in control of that wayward womb, that feckless woman who puts the foetus at risk. He, and only he, must manage the potentially pathological process of labour and delivery. Many obstetri-cians think like this, though they may be willing to make concessions, and like Nick Fisk, an obstetrician at Queen Charlotte's, where one woman in four has a Caesarean, spend time talking to women - though they find it more difficult to listen to them. Professor Fisk claims that there is increasing maternal input into childbirth. It is not clear what he means by this. Women have always had a lot of "maternal input". Doctors could not produce babies without them. The debate about Caesarean section is about control over territory. And the disputed territory is a woman's body in pregnancy and childbirth.

Women seek Caesareans not just because they can't face pain, or want to keep their vaginas "honeymoon fresh" (one way Caesareans have been promoted in the US) but because they hope they can maintain some control over what is done to them. When they describe horrific birth experiences we should listen to them, give accurate information, and, I believe, support them in getting an elective Caesarean with the next birth if that is what they want.

appeal, of course, and there are six other cases in the pipeline.
The Caesarcan section rate was 10 per cent in the early Eighties in Eng-iand, and 15 per cent in 19945. No one yet knows what it was last year. Few obstetricians do Caesareans because they want to be free to get to the golf course. There are many,

however, who are not prepared to wait



Hi-tech procedures rise in Caesareans. Sheila Kitzinger argues for less surgery and more sense



Sheila Kitzinger

have led to a



V. S. Pritchett: 'I am a writer who takes short breaths

Sir Victor Pritchett

For surprisingly many years V. S. Pritchett (Sir Victor Pritchett) was the best short-story writer and, equally, the best im-pressionistic literary critic in Britain. He was also the author of a very distinguished travelbook, The Spanish Temper (1954), five estimable novels, and a memorable two-volume autobiography (A Cab at the Door, 1968; and Midnight Oil, 1971). But the fact that his reputation was always high and suffered no great fluctuations tended to obscure the real distinction and importance of his achievement.

As a short-story writer Pritchett attached a very high value to the "ordinary". He was occasionally said to cherish eccentrics, but this was a mistake, as he himself remarked. He was not interested in prodigies and monsters and was not driven by obsession, or at least on the scale of a Balzac or Dickens. What interested him was ordinary people, that is to say unique people, and the temporary or momentary relationships and bizarre conjunctures into which life has a way of thrusting them.

His characters tend to be people who have been knocked about by life and bear the record of it in their body and features - people who, more-over, clutch at some favourite and pathetic life-myth, just to hold themselves together. His tone is rueful, and in A Cab at the Door he throws out the remark: "I think most of my sto-ries have been laments." This is not quite how they strike the reader, however. For, we find, the strange relationships and come complete with "rules"; they are very far from mean-ingless and, as likely as not, gen-

erate a curious, unprepared-for glory and beauty of feeling.

A story of his was often

sparked by some casual or banal everyday phrase, as in "You Make Your Own Life", or a queer and unguarded one, as in "Many Are Disappointed" accidents of ordinary speech seized on in much the same spirit as the accidents and collisions of providence. It is a trait which Pritchett shares with Hemingway, and he acknowledged a debt to the early Hemingway.

His literary journalism was, in a way, a product of the Second World War. There was a shortage of new books, and thus week by week, in the New Statesman, Pritchett would produce a "middle" on some dead or classic writer. The choice of topic, very likely, would come from the literary editor, Raymond Mortimer; and at all events the whole inspiration and challenge lay in coming to an author fresh, perhaps in almost complete ignorance. A neat biographical tie-up suggests itself here. For the

continual refrain of the young culture-hungry and culture-fearing Pritchett, as depicted in A Cab at the Door, was the groan: "Oh, not another writer!" and "I shall never catch up"; and these weekly New Statesman essays represented a most cheerful and triumphant "catching-up", and indeed going-beyond. Pritchett was always proud to regard himself as a man of letters and as one who came "at the tail-end of a long and once esteemed tradition in English and American writing", that of the metropolitan and non-academic writer for the "common reader". It seemed to him a blessing that he escaped university, and this was no de-

distrusted what went on in university literature departments and remarked in A Man of Letters (1986): "Even now, I am shocked to hear that literature is 'taught'."

There is a loose pattern to Pritchett's literary essays. Two thousand words just give time to make a quick tour round aclassic author, but by no means too much time: hence there will be much dependence on epithets - "the gorgeous, garrulous Huck", or "Her [Edith Wharton's] prose has a presentable, cold pomp". Much use, too, will be made of the suggestive paradox, which floats unasked into Pritchett's mind in the act of writing: for instance, "Kipling is

Usually there is a sober and informative feeling-of-the-way, and then at certain happy point the prose takes wing: it mounts in a flurry of opportunistic ver-bal conceits, a kind he made peculiarly his own. For instance, speaking of Ford Madox Ford: except in his two best books, he had so many ideas that he was exhausted by the time he got to the page. He
had not the breath. He creates the
spell of someone always on the
move; the pen itself was expatriate.

our first American writer."

In an uneffortful way, again, he could be memorably witty. One remembers his engaging comment on George Eliot: Hers is a mind that has grown by making judgements as Mr Glad-stone's head was said to have grown by making speeches.

He laboured over his stories, burning much midnight oil, and threw off his literary essays with ease; nevertheless these two sides to his writing have many affinities - among them. of course, his own belief that "I am a writer who takes short

breaths". The literary essays represent a kind of innocent promiscuity, a series of casual relationships entered into with much regret or backward look. As a critic, and equally as a taleteller, he is absolutely not a generaliser and shows little desire for a philosophy of life or theory of literature.

The important thing, for him, was not to get stale, and he never did get stale, being kept go-ing by a certain toughness and euphoria and by sheer delighted curiosity. His life, though not in the least an ivory-tower affair, was, unlike Hemingway's, lived in perfect harmony with books.

On this his own comment may taken as just. "I have always thought of myself - and there-fore of my subjects - as being in life', indeed books have always seemed to me a form of life, and not a distraction from it."

P. N. Furbank

To have been born over a toyshop in Ipswich seems an appropriate entry for Victor Pritchett, who retained for near-ly a century a child's fresh vision and capacity for enjoyment, writes Lettice Cooper.

A young man working in the leather trade to which his father had consigned him at 15, he wanted to go and earn his living in Paris "because it would be different". "How different?" "Well, in France a street would be called a nue." The reply was answering the telephone for typical of someone who from the age of 10 had been preocpreoccupation which was to

est him all his life.

ed and much-loved wife, Dorothy, tells a story of his knighthood. The letter offering zest and terminated with too it to him arrived when he was away from home, and she was opening his mail. Knowing that the first thing he would do on his return would be to get a clean shirt out of his cupboard, she hid the official letter among his. shirts. Waiting below she heard.

his shout of joy as he ran down-stairs to share his news with her. As a child Petchett spent many holidays with his York-shire grandmother at Jedburgh. He loved travel, as a young man, especially in Spain, for which he always had a strong feeling. "It was a country that made a per-son of you. Tate in life he loved the Comish cliffs; he relished any place from which he could watch the movements of the sea. as from the window of his study on the fourth floor in their tall. late-Nash house in Regent's Park Terrace be watched the

movements of the clouds. Even in his late eighties he used to climb the stairs every morning at 9am to this eyrie, wishing that he did not need at his age to go on writing for his. living. But once he had reached his desk, and filled the small pipe he always carried in his pocket, all regrets vanished. and he was surprised when Dorothy called him down to:

lunch at one o'clock. him, typing his manuscripts, on which, to his regret and cupied with words, a happy hers, his handwriting grew preoccupation which was to smaller and more difficult to read with every week of his life. Victor Pritchett was a very but they enjoyed laughing over distinguished author who remained modest, and who, per- ways enjoyed laughter. He haps because of this, fully wrote once that it seemed to

enjoyed his success. His devot- him like "the sexual act which is perhaps the laughter of two bodies". Laughter, he thought, wakes up the mind, and I have seen him in a few minutes' amusing speech shake a duli meeting into active life.

He belonged to no organised religion. He was not acutely interested in politics; he did not want to write about them. He had a private myth about frontiers. It sprang perhaps at first from his immense enjoyment of travel. Romance was to cross a border, but a frontier became for Pritchett something more unconscious, and though in talked to me about it I was not sure that I understood all that it meant to him. He was glad that he lived in a kind of frontier, the beautiful houses in Regent's Park Terrace, and the people who lived in them being only just round the corner from the crowded, bustling streets of Camden where Pritchett often went in the afternoons to do some of the

household shopping.

Here he sometimes saw a face or heard a scrap of conversation which turned out to be the germ of a short story. Was the frontier the passage from the surface to the equally true but far richer world of he creative imagination?

Victor Sawdon Pritchett, writer and critic: born Ipswich 16 December 1900; FRSL 1959; CBE 1968; President, International PEN 1974-76; Kt 1975; President, Society of Authors 1977-97; CL it 1988: CH 1993; married 1936 Dorothy Roberts (one son, one daughter); died London 21 March 1997.

Lettice Cooper died 24 July

The Rev W. Awdry

The name of the Rev W. Awdry will go down in history as that of "the Thomas the Tank Engine Man". It cannot be otherwise, since he is the creator of the pantheon of steam-driven childhood gods which run the rails of that enchanting railway system on the fictional Island of Sodor.

The testament is clear in the form of a literary, publishing, merchandising and financial phenomenon; 26 small books of stories which have sold some 50 million copies, in varying shapes and sizes and in a dozen different languages, spawning videos, toys, games, clothes and a hugely successful film series

When this Church of England clergyman began to achieve fame as a children's writer, the press dubbed him "the Puff Puff Parson". Although far too reserved to complain, he disliked the nickname because it seemed to denigrate both his vocation as a priest and his passion for railways. These were the two lines of life that ran, straighter than most railway tracks, through his 85 years and which were laid down in his childhood as the son of a vicar with a passion for steam engines.

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The Rev Vere Awdry had built a model railway layout in his Hampshire vicarage garden, in Ampfield, and the young Wilbert Awdry (whose unusual first name combined those of his father's favourite brothers, William and Herbert) soon became "Superintendent of the Line". On walks around the parish with his father he met and talked with local railwaymen. Long before he could read. Wilbert would sit poring over the pictures in his father's bound copies of the Railway Magazine.

Following the birth of his brother. George (who was to play a significant role in the "disowery" of Sodor), the Awdry family moved to Box, in Wiltshire. As Wilbert lav in bed, as a child, listening to the trains running on the nearby Great Western Railway line from Paddington to Bristol, the seeds of the Railway Series were sown. "There was no doubt." he told me once. "that steam engines all had definite personalities. Little imagination was needed to hear, in the puffings and pantings, the conversation they were

having with one another. Wilbert and George were the children of their father's late years (he had already been twice) married and bereaved and had another son who had fallen in

the retreat from Mons); and Vere Awdry's death, at the age of 74, left his wife – some 25 Cinderella-type story which he entitled "Edward's Day Out". The story was told over and years his junior - in financially straitened circumstances. However, the sons maintained their devotion to all things connected with railways and, in Wilbert's case, his love and respect for his

towards a career in the Church. After being educated at Dauntsey's School in Wiltshire, Wilbert went to St Peter's Hall (now St Peter's College), Oxford, then recently founded as an educational establishment ~ Evangelical wing of the Church as The Three Railway Engines.

of sons of low-income families. Wilbert's academic achievements were modest; when he gained his BA it was, he said. only a Third Class - but a brilliant Third Class, a 'Gamma double plus' ". After studying Theology at Wycliffe Hall. Oxford, but before proceeding to ordination, he spent three years as a teacher at St George's School in Jerusalem, It brought the lands of the Bible vividly alive for him: he also met Margaret Wale, a teacher at the English High School in Haifa, to whom he became engaged

and, later, married. Ordained deacon at Winchester Cathedral in 1936, Wilbert Awdry became a curate first at Odiham in Hampshire, then at West Lavington in Wiltshire, as assistant to an autocratic clergyman who had once been his school chaplain. Difficulties arose in 1939, when ~ with war in Europe an inevitability - Awdry declared himself a pacifist. His stand was repical of a determination (some might say stubbornness) and quiet courage that marked his character. Asked to leave the parish, he was on the point of giving up his work as a priest when the pacifist Bishop of Birmingham appointed him to

a curacy at King's Norton. It was in Birmingham. in 1942, that an event took place with a significance no one could have foreseen. The Awdrys' first child, Christopher, was confined to bed with measles. Awdry amused his son with a story about a little old engine who was sad because he had not been out for a long time. When Christopher asked what the engine's name was, his father replied - seizing on the first name that came to mind - that it was Edward. In this way, by question

The story was told over and over again and eventually written down and illustrated with simple line-drawings of railway engines with faces drawn on the front of their smoke-boxes. However, the adventures of Edward father undoubtedly led him might have remained nothing more than a family entertainment had Margaret Awdry not chivvied her husband into offering them for publication. In 1945, after being turned

down by several notable publishers, the book was accepted based on the beliefs of the by Edmund Ward and appeared main the same for all the books in the series, was crucial to its success: a small, oblong, essentially child-sized volume containing an engaging story, simply told, with colourful (but not very sophisticated) pictures by an unacknowledged artist named William Middleton.

A second volume was quickly commissioned and Wilhert Awdry's most famous engine character made a cheeky debut in Thomas the Tank Engine. This time the illustrations, also uncredited, were by Reginald Payne, who established the palette of vivid blues, reds, greens and yellows that were to play such a vital part in the visual



Thomas the Tank Engine: Awdry's first book was published in 1945

appeal of the Railway Series. In 1946, Awdry was given his first parish at Elsworth and Knapwell, near Cambridge, where he staved for seven years before moving to Emneth, near Wisbech. In 1965, he retired (or, as he put it. "went into private practice") and moved to a sensible red-brick house in Stroud. Gloucestershire, where his study - an agreeable jumble of railway books, maps and timetables was denoted by a "STATION MASTER" sign on the door.

During these years, Awdry continued writing books for best means of getting man to his ultimate destination." children and, from James the Red Engine in 1948, published a new Railway Series title each

year until his last, in 1972, Tramway Engines. With the success of these books, it has now become fashionable to sneer at Awdry's literary style but, at its best, it was - like the prose of Beatrix Potter - tightly structured and economically written while, at the same time, employing satisfyingly repetitive rhythms and an often. challenging vocabulary.

The stories featured the al-The stories reactions - impready established engines - impreading Echward argumentative Henry and proud and pompous Gordon - as well as introducing new characters in such volumes as Toby the Tram Engine (1952), Percy the Small Engine (1956) and Duck & the Diesel Engine (1958). The books harnessed Awdry's

knowledge and love of railway engineering and history and had to be "true-to-life": although the fictional engines had human personalities and voices, their activities always followed the rules of the railroad and virtually all the exploits described were based on something that had happened, somewhere at some time, to a real railway engine. Those adventures mostly mishaps - included common derailments as well as more surprising disasters such as an engine running off the end of a jetty into a harbour or an unexpected disappearance down a

however, these crises were brought about by the arrogance, stubbornness, jealousy or ambition of the engine involved. The morality of the stories was clear and Christian: misbehaviour led to suffering and retribution; however, provided the cultrit showed repentance. restoration always followed.

The important thing," Awdry

said, "is that the engines are

disused mine. As often as not.

punished and forgiven - but never scrapped." The analogies between the Christian faith and the ways of the railway are obvious: the engines are meant to follow the straight and narrow way and pay the price if they go off the rails. No wonder Awdry enjoyed drawing the parallels between railways and the Church: "Both had their heyday in the mid-19th century; both own a great deal of Gothic-style architecture which is expensive to main-

tain; both are regularly assailed

by critics; and both are firmly convinced that they are the

Despite the morality which prevails in their universe, Thomas and his cronies have nevertheless fallen foul of various establishment figures: banned from some public libraries either for being poor literature or, worse, for being politically incorrect with mindless female carriages chattering along in the wake of their engine lords and masters. Such prejudices run deep and last long, despite the fact that Awdry later introduced two female en-It was with James the Red

pestuous, but highly creative, collaboration with the illustra-

went on to produce several more books before handing over to John Kenney who, in turn, was succeeded by Peter and Gunvor Edwards. Each artist had a different approach, but each complimented the strong authorial voice found in the books and helped maintain

With his brother, George, Wilbert invented the setting for the stories, the Island of Sodor, situated between the British mainland and the Isle of Man. They made maps and wrote a detailed history of the island, its people and railway engines, which helped shape many of the

Wilbert also pursued his oth-Another preserved railway

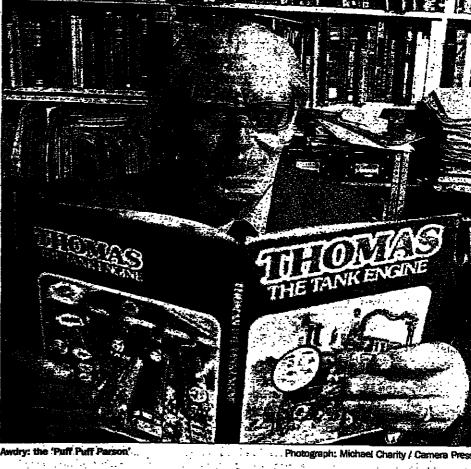
Engine that he began a tem-

tor C. Reginald Dalby who - despite a wilful disregard for railway accuracy and authenticity - helped set the style of the. Railway Series with his anthropomorphic engines looking so believably impish, guilty, happy, sad, smug or stuck-up as they chuffed through idealised rural settings captured with a gem-like brilliance. Dalby also re-illustrated the unsatisfactory first volume and

the popularity of the series.

events described in later volumes.

er railway interests: building ambitious model railway layouts in each of his homes, taking railway excursions at home and abroad with his brother or his friend "Teddy" Boston (the Fat Clergyman of the Railway Series) and becoming involved with the work of various railway preservation societies, such as the Talyllyn Railway in Wales, which was to inspire the Skarloey Railway on the Island of Sodor, featured in such books as Four Little Engines (1955) and The Little Old Engine (1959).



was to honour Awdry when, in 1987, the Dean Forest Railway named one of its engines Wilbert. On an icy winter's morning on which it was announced that Wilbert Awdry had been honoured in the 1996 New Year's Honours List, I travelled on the footplate of Wilbert and was able to report to its namesake that the Forest railwaymen had proudly added "OBE" in

chalk to the nameplate. In addition to the Railway Series, Awdry wrote two children's novels about the adventures of Belinda the Beetle, a little red, three wheeled car, which failed to achieve the popularity of his railway-engine stories. He also co-edited and contributed to several adult books about railways.

In 1983, 11 years after Awdry wrote his last Railway Series title, his son Christopher (once own health began to decline and the little boy for whom the original stories were told) wrote Re- ing discomfort. In consequence ally Useful Engines, the first of. to date, 13 further books about the engines of Sodor. The following year saw the premiere of the popular television series

Thomas the Tank Engine and exhibition was staged at the Na-Friends, narrated by Ringo Starr. tional Railway Museum in York This revival of interest in and a mainline engine - ironi-Thomas catapulted the shy cally an InterCity 125 - running Wilbert Awdry reluctantly into on the East Coast line between the limelight: journalists sought London and Glasgow, was him out and pestered him with named The Reverend W. Awdry. questions about the writing of I asked Awdry once how he the books, and how much mon-

that he had received only rela

which the world rates success

was seemingly beyond the com-prehension, of most people

outside his family and friends. Margaret Awdry died in

989; the year after she and

Wilbert celebrated their gold-

en wedding anniversary. His

Osteoporosis gave him increas-

he was unable to enjoy many of

the celebrations in 1995, the

year which marked the 50th an-

niversary of the publication of

The Three Railway Engines. An

Geoffrey Bash, composer, 77; Mr Ge-

hoped to be remembered. He puffed on one of his beloved of ey they had earned him. Speculation about the reasons for his pipes and replied: "I should like modest life were not satisfied my epitaph to say, 'He helped even by the surprising revelation. people see God in the ordinary things of life, and he made tively-small royalties. That he children laugh. " was a man of simple tastes who was unconcerned by the ways in Brian Sibley

Wilbert Vere Awdry, priest and writer born Ampfield, Hampshire 15 June 1911, ordained deacon 1936, priest 1937, curate, Odiham, Hampshire 1936-38, West Lavington, Willshire 1938-40, King's Notion, Birmingham 1940-46; Rector, Elsworth with Knapwell, Cambridgeshire 1946-53: Rural Dean, Bourn, Cambridgeshire 1950-53; Vicar - Emneth, Wisheck, Cambridgeshire 1953-65: OBE 1996: married 1938 Margaret Wale (died 1989; one son, two daughters); died Stroud, Gloucestershire 21 March 1997.

BIRTHS

THOROUGHGOOD: On 15 March, at the Portland Hospital, to Avalva (nee Weekes) and John, a son.

DEATHS

V.J.EN: On 15 March in his 100th year. Joseph Stanley, of Ovingham, Northumberland, Architect and town and country planner, Professor Emeritus of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Widower of Mary Aubrey Pugh and Evenn Meryl Watts, dear father of Elizabeth Jane and Aubrey Paul and a loved grandfather to his nine grandchildren. Funeral service at St Mary's Church, Ovingham on Wildnesday 25 March at 11.30 followed by cremation at Newcastle Crematorium at 12.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu if FIGGESS: Sir John, KBE CMG, peace-fully on 20 March at the John Rad-chife Hospital, Oxford, aged 87, Dearly loved husband of Alette, fa-ther of Sandra and Mickey, grandfa-ther of Alex, Nina and Charlie, Private funeral, No memorial service as wished, Esmit, Gaussia surk, Amy as wished. Family flowers only. Any donations to The Children's Society. Edward Rudolph House, Margery

and answer, he invented a

Street, London WC1X OJL. BILL: Robert on 15 March 1997, aged

MILLER: Clare, much-loved wife and

64, peacefully at home after a long fight with cancer and heart disease. Much loved husband to Margaret and dear tather to Jane. Maegic and Douglas Funeral 10.45am Thursday 27 March 1997 Warfield Church, Bracknell, Berkshire. No flowers cer Research Fund British Heart

Births, Marriages & Deaths

friend to Douglas, dearly loved moth-er of Keith, Isin and Karen, and to Theone and Emily, and grandmoth-er to Lauren, died suddenly but peacefully in her sleep on 18 March. Funeral service at Randalis Park Crematorium Leatherhead at 2pm 27 March. Enquiries and flowers to Walter G. Wortt, telephone 01932

For Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, please telephone 0171-293 2012 or fax 0171-293 2010.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr L. F. Earle

and Miss M. C. Arnold The engagement is announced between Laurence, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Earle, of London, and Maria. daughter of Mrs Liza Arnold, of London, and Mr Robert Arnold, of Lyford Cay, Bahamas.

Mr T. M. Sutton and Miss J. FL. Dickle

The engagement is announced hetween Martin, younger son of the late Dr L.E. Sutton FRS and Mrs R.A. Sutton, of Headington, Oxford, and Jo, daughter of Mr and Mrs W.S. Dickie, of Swindon, Wiltshire,

Birthdays TODAY: Lotd Alport, Deputy Speak-

er, House of Lords, 85; Mr George Benson, singer and jazz guitarist, 54; Miss Sheila Cameron QC, Vicar-General of the Province of Canterbury, 63; Mr Brian Hanraban, broadcaster, 48; The Verv Rev Lawrence Jackson, Provost Emeritus of Blackburn, 71; Dr Harry Kay, former Vice-Chancellor, Exeter University, 78; Lord Lloyd-Webber, composer, 49; M Marcel Marceau, mime artist, 74; Mr Charles Pick, former manag-ing director. Heinemann, 80; Sir Lynden Pindling, former prime min-ister of the Bahamas, 67; Mr Paul Rogers, actor, 80; Mr Paul Schocke-mohle, show-jumper, 52; Mr William

Shatner, actor, 66; Mr Stephen Sond-

heim, composer and lyricist, 67; Professor Sir Colin Spedding, chairman, UK Register of Organic Food Standards Board, 72; Lord Stokes, former president, British Leyland, 83; Mr. Leslie Thomas, author, 66; Admiral Sir Richard Thomas, former Black Rod and Serjeant-at-Arms, House of Lords, 65; Professor Sir Arnold Turnberg, President, Royal College of Physicians, 63, Professor David Watson, director, University of Brighton,

TOMORROW: Professor Harry Allen, Emeritus Professor of American Studies, University of East Anglia, 80: Mr Mike Atherton, cricketer, 29: Sir Roger Bannister, former Mas-ter of Pembroke College, Oxford, 68; Mr Alan Bleasdale, playwright, 51; Mr

offrey Clifton-Brown MP, 44; Mr Barry Cryer, writer and connection, 62-Professor Patrick Dowling, Vice-Chancellor, Surrey University, 58; Mr. Professor Kenneth Gregory, Warden, Goldsmitt's College, London, 59, Mr Akira Kurosawa, film director, 87, Sir David McNee, former Commissioner, the Metropolitan Police, 72: Mr Michael Manser, architect, 68, Mr Andrew Miller MP, 48, Mr Andrew Mitchell ME, 41; Mr Alfred Morris MP, 69; Mr Michael Nyman, com-poser, 53; Sir Desmond Pitcher, chairman, United Utilities, 62; Mr Oliver Sherwood, racehorse trainer, 42: Sir Lan Todd, consulting surgeon, 76; Sir Edward Warner, former diplomat, 86; Sir Denis Wright, former diplomat, 36: | starts on Monday.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS Prince Edward today visits Calcutta, in-dia; and fornorrow visits Madras.

Changing of the Guard TODAY: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's life Guard at Horse Guards. Chiern's Life Guard at Horse Guards,
Haint: R. Company Scots Guards,
mounts the Oueen's Guard, at Back,
hagham Palace, H. Mum, band providod by the Scots Guards. TOMORROW:
The Horsehold Crivalry Mounted Regment mounts the Oueen's Life Guard
at Horse Guards, 10am.

Due to pressure on space, today's FAITH & REASON column has been beld over. Our series for Holy

Foreign Exchange Rates..... Tourist Rates Interest Rates... 2.50% 3.00% **Bond Yields Money Market Rates**. The UK Index-Tracking PEP Liffe Financial Futures...... Can you find a better value PEP? withdrawat fee NOinitial charges JUST 0.5% annual charge Liffe FTSE Index Option..... 0500 11 66 22 Commodities... General Michael Sea High Income 481 1000 35.9 78.29 1029 12 Familyson Frenchildon 1088 600 305 2229 118.2 Michael High Yeld 277 1000 44.3 288.4 112.7 5 Howard Popear 881 500 142.5 91.39 108.7 Problemed Equity 969 500 1039 1002 1134 1132 1135 135 International Act 1006 500 1132 1132 1134 1135 135 International Act 1006 500 1132 1132 1134 1135 135 International Act 1006 500 1132 1132 1132 1134 1135 1135 International Act 1006 500 1132 1132 1132 1133 1135 International Act 1006 500 1133 1134 International Internat | Part | Source: Galaterian, Sington & Co. "GSCI is a literatural" and survicement of Goldman, Sache & Co. (Close as of 19 March 97 Westernik Sententes 181 SE SET 1820 1837 SE 100 Largest Insurance Funds Here 100 243 Feb. 100 345 Feb. 100 35 Feb.

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business & city

BUSINESS & CITY DEPUTY EDITOR: MICHAEL HARRISON

SFO triumphs as Michael Ward gets two-year jail term

City Editor

The Serious Fraud Office gained an unprecedented victory yes-terday, securing custodial sentences in the court of appeal for a pair of convicted fraudsters who two years ago had escaped with "too lenient" fines and community service for their part in an illegal share support conspiracy.
It will be the second spell in

jail in under two years for Michael Ward, former chief

my whose shares he conspired to ramp during a successful bid for rival Midsummer Leisure in 1991. He was jailed in September 1995 for one year on a related charge of making false and misleading statements during the SFO's investigation of the share support operation. Michael Ward, 49, the former

Morgan Grenfell and Warburgs banker who lives in Mayfair's plush Chester Square, was sen-

chairman, Jeremy Howarth, received a 20-month sentence.

Two years ago the two escaped with fines of £63,000 and £151,000 respectively and 220 hours of community service. A third co-defendant, George Hendry, who received a conditional discharge in 1995, was given a 12-month sentence, suspended for two years, on the grounds of ill-health.

The original fraud revolved

European Leisure's shares to ensure the success of a bid for Midsummer Leisure. In its case, the SFO painted a picture of an elaborate share-support scheme which involved a Jersey taxidriver, a Scottish contracting firm and a company controlled by an Egyptian business asso-ciate of Ward.

After the fraud came to light, and knowing that he would be interviewed by the SFO, Ward

receipt concerning the sale of furniture for £89,000 to explain movements of cash through his accounts. The forgery of that document prompted the second case in late 1995 that led to his previous jail sentence.

ruled the original fraud sentences were "unduly lenient". In addition to the jail sencompany directors for seven and five years respectively.

Giving the decision, Lord Justice McCowan said, "We grant leave as we consider the sentences imposed were unduly lenient.

"The scheme was master-Yesterday, Lord Justice Mc-Cowan, sitting with Mr Justice minded by Ward. The compa-nies involved were international nies involved were international companies trading on the London Stock Exchange. The fraud involved careful planning and

executive of Dublin-quoted tenced yesterday to two years in European Leisure, the compagail while his former deputy artificially to inflate the value of Anderson, to give him a bogus each banned from becoming portant element in sentencing artificially to inflate the value of Anderson, to give him a bogus each banned from becoming portant element. "It is important that people

carrying out something like this, should know they face a real chance of going to prison." The two were given 48 hours to put their affairs in order be-

fore starting their sentences. Charismatic and eloquent, Ward enjoyed a brief period as the darling of the Irish Stock Exchange after in 1987 he acquired the Edenderry Shoe Company

as a shell for his ambitions in the leisure sector. He built up a chain of nightcinbs in Spain and Paris and he owned the famous Hippodrame in London.

Ward's nemesis, however, was the takeover in 1991 of Midsummer Leisure, a company then valued at £87m. To secure control of Midsummer, Ward had to maintain the value of European

Tesco in record £640m Irish supermarket deal

What Tesco gets for its £640m

Also included: 79 Wine Barrel off-licences, 47 Lifestyle

sports & leisure shops, Kingsway Fresh foods (pork processing) and Dailywrap Produce (packaging).

Crazy Prices

Superdeal

Westside

Bloomfields

Sales: £380m

Market share: 17.5%

Total sales: £1.24bn

Profits: £58m

Nigel Cope City Correspondent

Tesco made its largest ever acquisition vesterday when it paid £640m for the Irish supermarket businesses of Associated British Foods. It is one of the largest deals in Irish corporate history and makes Tesco the number one supermarket retailer in both Northern and Southern Ireland.

The move immediately sparked talk on whether Tesco had paid too much. It also fuelled speculation over how Associated British Foods might spend its burgeoning cash pile which will reach £1.5bn following the deal's completion.

Garry Weston, ABF's chairman dismissed suggestions that he might be interested in acquiring Hillsdown Holdings, the Typhoo Tea and Hartley's jam group. He said: "We have been trying to get out of those kind of businesses for 15 years."

However, he did not rule out interest in National Starch, part of the speciality chemical business recently put up for sale by Unilever, or an acquisition in the Polish sugar industry, currently in the process of being

He declared himself satisfied with the sale: "We felt the business had a better future with

These sort of businesses sometimes get to a certain size then they need more clout. They will have that." He added that the gradual invasion of the Irish market by Tesco and Sainsbury would have made it harder to

increase profits.

The deal, which includes a £10m dividend to ABF, eclipses Tesco' previous record deal, the £250m paid for the Scottish chain William Low in 1994. It mans Tesco will leapfrog Sainsbury's in Northern Ireland where it has been opening new stores.

Republic of Ireland

(75 stores)

Crazy Prices

Sales: £850m

Market share: 19.4%

Metro in Belfast and planning applications in for two superstores. This deal gives Tesco a further 109 supermarkets under the Quinnsworth, Stewarts and Crazy Prices names. It also includes 79 Wine Barrel off licences and 47 sports shops trading as Lifestyle Sports and Leisure as well as a pork

Tesco's chairman, Lord MacLaurin, said: "We believe Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland are attractive

Northern Ireland

(34 stores)

processing and a packaging

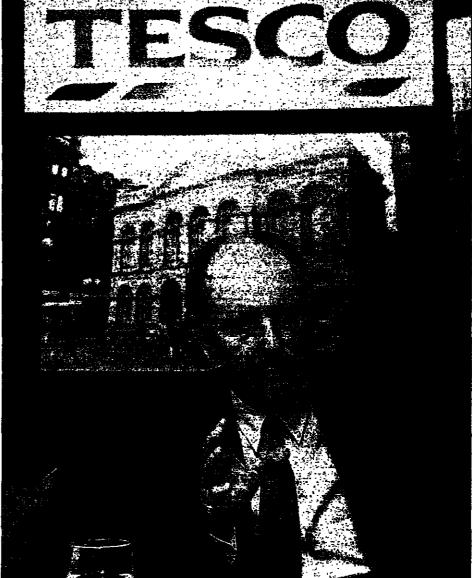
extensive retail expertise to bear.

Tesco will hope this deal proves more successful than its last in Ireland. It acquired a chain of supermarkets in southern Ireland in the late1970s and changed the name to Tesco. The move caused antagonism locally and Tesco later sold them. Tesco said that it would be more sensitive this time and would trade the businesses under their existing formats.

It also sent executives that included Michael Wemms, retail director, and Terry Leahy, chief executive, to Belfast and Dublin to break the news. It said there were no plans for redundancies and that the group's head office in Eire would be retained.

'We won't be steamrolling in with the Tesco name," Lord MacLaurin said. Tesco hopes to improve the Irish operations' margins from their current 4.7 per cent to 6 per cent within three years by increasing sales. particularly of own label lines, better buying power and the in-troduction of Tesco's loyalty card later this year. Analysis said the deal was a full

price. "I think it will be very challenging and if Safeway takes over Wellworth [the Northern Irish chain] then Stewarts could come under pressure," said Mike Dennis of Nat West Securities.



Breaking news: Michael Wemms, Tesco retail director, in Belfast yesterday. Photograph: Pacemaker

Howden agrees £385m bid from Charter

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Howden, one of the oldest names in the Scottish engineering industry, yesterday ended a week of speculation by agreeing a £385m bid from Charter, the welding rods to rail ties group. The bid sent the Renfrew-based group's shares soaring yesterday, leaving them 36.5p higher at 128p, around 3p lower than the offer terms of £124.78 in cash and three Charter shares for every 115 in Howden. Charter's shares were also strong, rising 60p to 847.5p.

The deal comes just five days after a jump in the share price prompted Howden to issue a statement that it had not received any approaches. Charter made its first contact on Monday afternoon, but did not tie up the deal until Thursday night. Both the company and the Takeover Panel, which was kent informed, said vesterday they were satisfied that all the rules had been followed.

John Jackson, the chairman, did not rule out the possibility of a higher offer, but Charter. which has been stalking Howden for six months, was confident yesterday that its offer would prove a knock-out. Jeff Herbert, the chairman and chief

ladices

FTSE SmallCap 2321.50

FTSE All-Share 2079.85

3264.67

Statistics as of 21 March

tractive offer for Howden's shareholders, while the deal would be earnings chancing

for Charter in its first full year. The group has been looking to add a third leg to the business for at least a year in the wake of the successful £280m purchase in 1994 of Esab, the Swedish company which leads the world in welding consumables. Last June's sale of a majority stake in Cape, the building materials company, left Charter with net cash of £36.5m at the end of December.

Mr Herbert said Howden's core business of building fans for uses ranging from mine ventilation to air conditioning in battle tanks "fitted like a glove" their acquisition criteria. There were "exciting opportunities" for growth. It was rare to find a case like this where a market leader earned lower margins than its rivals, he claimed.

He said they would review the other Howden businesses. which range from equipment used in digging the Channel Tunnel to pasta-making extrusion machinery.

On Tuesday, Charter announced profits had slumped | Rolls-Royce's advisers, Morfrom £97.5m to £46m last year. I gan Stanley, were due to have

STOCK MARKETS

-87.70

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-51.26

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2163.94 1791.95 3.66

22666 80 17303.65 0.881

13868 24 10204.87 3 371

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Union may urge strike over Steel cuts

Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

British Steel employees may be urged to take industrial action over plans by the company to transform working practices and accelerate the programme of job cuts, the steel workers' union, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC) warned yesterday.

Keith Brookman, ISTC general secretary, met British Steel's personnel director, Alan Johnston, in London to hear details of the group's five-year plan to introduce team working and reduce lavers of management. He also disclosed it would cost were "pure speculation". How-£30m a year to implement, ever, he said about 10 per cent costing British Steel £150m for the five-year programme.

No figures for job losses were mentioned though Mr Brookman said British Steel would "have to recoup that money from somewhere". He added: "If an employer takes advantage of the work-

force there's always the possibility of industrial action ... it's essential that there must not be any compulsory redundancies." Mr Johnston said reports of 10.000 job losses over five years, double the current envisaged rate by the group,

of the workforce was of "pensionable age" and repeated that the 20 per cent surge in the value of the pound last year had damaged British Steel's competitiveness, though this was only one factor in the changes. He again refused to rule out compulsory job cuts and denied the move was a knee-jerk

reaction to the rise in sterling. "We didn't speak about jobs in the meeting. We were talking about a new plans for a jobs package ... There's no new five-year plan we've discussed with the troops. It's a budget

plan for one year," Mr Johnston said. Last year British Steel was squeezed by the rise in the

pound against the German mark and a drop in steel prices of as much as 30 per cent on world markets. The company's profits are forecast to more than-balve from £1.1bn in the year to March 1996 to below £500m this year and could drop further to £350m in 1997-98. Every 10 per cent increase in the value of the pound knocks £100m off British Steel's profits.

It emerged yesterday that Sir Brian Moffat, British Steel chairman, briefed unions on the

problem last month, shortly before officials received a private letter from him warning of the likelihood of job losses. He told them: "Our profits in January this year were significantly lower than January a year ago and yet this year we made more steel." The group is

The ISTC said no decisions on industrial action would be taken before a long period of consultation with the workforce. Mr Brookman insisted relations with management remained good, despite the jobs warning.

Europe's largest steel produc-er and the world's third biggest.

Leisure's shares and to do that he masterminded illegal share purchases with a combined valne of £400,000, the SFO believed. Limelight

to axe

jobs after

shares fall Tom Stevenson

Limelight, the Moben kitchens to Dolphin bathrooms group whose shares have fallen to little more than half the price at which they floated in November. is to cut more than 100 jobs in response to a slump in sales since the start of the year.

The redundancies are part of a bid to placate shareholders, who have seen their investment collapse just months after founder Stephen Boler netted £60m from the flotation. Limelight also spelt out a list of management actions to put the company back on track.

Speaking after the company announced increased profits for the year to December, Ashley Lewis, finance director, said there was no question of either 🔞 its sponsor, NM Rothschild, resigning over the affair. The collapse of the share price, from a peak of 200p shortly after a placing at 175p to yesterday's 94.5p. comes as a serious embarrass ment to the two blue-chip firms.

Mr Lewis said sales had dropped dramatically in January after buoyant sales in the run-up to Christmas. He could think of no substantive reason for the fall-off in demand, except that potential windfalls from a raft of building society flotations had locked up the have been spent on big ticket items such as fitted kitchens,

bathrooms and conservatories. In the year to December Limelight bounced back into the black, reporting pre-tax professor f.2.84m compared with a £1m loss in 1995. The profit was struck from sales of £171.6m, up from £133.9m the previous year. As projected at the time of flotation, there was no dividend.

Mr Lewis said Limelight was investigating outsourcing various internal functions such as warehousing and distribution in order to cut costs. He said the company was also planning to sell other new but related products through its showrooms including kitchen stools, towels and rattan furniture, and to contract manufacture for an unnamed national distributor.

Siemens steps in for Parsons rescue

Chris Godsmark

The long-term future of Parsons steam turbines, one of the most famous names in British engineering, has been secured after Siemens, the German industrial giant, won the bidding to buy the historic Tyneside company from its owner. Rolls-Royce.

Siemens, which beat off competition from General Electric of the US, is understood to have agreed to pay between £25m and £30m for Parsons, which makes large turbine used to generate electricity in power stations. Negotiations with

loney Market Rates

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Road Yields *

| Marine Soul (%)

been concluded before the from larger rivals. A further 800 group's annual profits announcement on 6 March, but became bogged down over con-tractual terms. However these stumbling blocks have been overcome and Siemens is expected to announce the purchase within the next fortnight.

The axe has been hanging over Parsons since last July, when Rolls-Royce revealed plans to sell the works and make provisions of £248m, parly to cover a possible 1,700 redundancies. In 1989 Rolls-Royce had paid £304m for Parsons' parent group, Northern Engineering Industries, but was hit by intense competition

Long Blood (Xi) Steer Age

Price (g) Chango (p) % Chango

182 20.5 10.1

jobs were also threatened at another industrial power subsidiary in Derby. Closure of Parsons would

have ended a manufacturing tradition stretching back to to 1889 when Sir Charles Parsons, inventor of the steam turbine, created the company. Parsons made the turbines used to power the ill-fated Titanic, a succession of warships and, at its height in the 1960s employed 12,000 people.

Last night Siemens declined to comment. However, in a further boost Siemens is thought to be planning to continue turbine production at Parsons, which is a short distance from the German company's new £1bn micro-chip plant at Wallsend. Analysts had speculated a buyer would use Parsons' expertise in international contracting and consultancy, but would end turbine-making

Unions will be pressing Siemens to give a commitment to preserve job numbers at Parsons, which have dropped by almost 400 since the sale announcement. The local management are considering whether to make another 80 staff redundant, though no decisions have been taken on another 400 potential job cuts.

CURRENCIES

155.0 2.7 146.0 13 Mar

\$ (London) 1.5973 +0.83c 1.5364 £ (London) 0.6261 \$ (N York) # 1.5940 -0.42c 1.5390 £ (N Yorigt 0.6274 +0.17 0.6498 DM (London) 2.6858 +1.91pt 2.2700 DM (London) 1.6815 +0.3361 1.4775 ¥ (London) 196.063 + Y1.236 163.734 Y (London) 122.750 +Y0.14 106.570 96,3 +0.6 84.0 Vesterates Den's char for Age Oil Brent \$ 20.19 -0.14 19.13 RPI

351.55 +2.40 395.00 GDP 103.7+2.6pc 107.0 220.52 +1.93 257.09 Base Rates - 6.00pc 6.75

Newcastle shoots to top of range

Patrick Tooher

Newcastle United yesterday. Charlton Athletic closed at 17p defied its critics by pricing a combelow their issue price at 63p aftroversial £47.7m share issue at the touching 55p in early dealings, the top end of the range, valuing the Premier League club at ticket holders and supporters snapped up around 1.3 million chares priced at 76p. Charlton's

The news came as shares in Charlton Athletic of the First Division collapsed on their first day of trading, heightening fears that the market for football stocks had overheated.

There are still a lot of institutions out there who are nervous about football," said Paul Deakin of NatWest Markets

But strong demand from Newcastle fans for shares at 135p ensured its retail offer was satisfy demand from 8,500 season ticket holders the number of shares available to private investors will be increased from 10 per cent of the offer, or 4 mil

lion shares, to 15 per cent. Nat West indicated that the instimuonal offer, which closed yesterday, was also substantially oversubscribed. "Our list of top 10 investors reads like a Who's Who of financial institutions in the UK," said Mr Deakin. However, he admitted some fund managers had shunned the issue because of concerns that

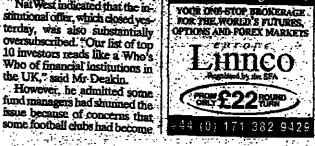
shares priced at 76p. Charlton's institutional placing was also fully subscribed at 80p per share valuing the club at £17 m. "It is disappointing," said Ken Ford of Teather & Greenwood, the club's advisers. "But there are

buyers out there and we are hopeful of getting back to the is-sue price before too long." Deakin of NatWest Markets,
Newcastle's sponsoring broker
and financial adviser.
But strong demand from are also insding at or below their

offer price.

Proceeds from the Newcastle oversubscribed seven times. To float will be used to pay off debts of £21m. The club plans to abandon its St. James' Park home for

a £90m stadium across the city. The future's right here



المكذا من الأصل



MICHAEL HARRISON

We can agree on what constitutes a privatised company. But what is a utility? Water, gas and electricity yes. But what about

telephones, airports and railway tracks?

We're still guessing who'll pay the windfall tax Gordon Brown has been at it again this week, talking about his windfall tax and who will pay it. Alas, the more he explains.

only to make things more opaque. Where there is certainty, he sows confusion. Perhaps that is part of the strategy. Keep em guessing until the ink is dry on Labour's first Finance Bill. Perhaps it is because the Shadow Chancellor does not want to give any hostages to fortune. Perhaps it is because even now, three years after it first mooted the idea, Labour is still tied up in knots drafting a watertight legal definition of how the tax will be applied

the less clear it becomes. He injects clarity

Whatever the answer, Mr Brown was on bis best and most clusive form as the elec-tion campaign proper kicked off. On Tues-day, he finally appeared to nail bis colours to the mast at Labour's first election press briefing. He announced that the tax would affect privatised companies that are licensed and regulated by statute. That would seem to cast the net pretty wide.
Unfortunately, the Shadow Chancellor

then went on to qualify his remarks. The tax he added helpfully, would apply "only to those privatised utilities that were sold off at an under-valuation and have had lax regulatory regimes".

The problem, as the privatised companies themselves have discovered, is that every and who is out merely adds to the confusion. As the current Chancellor, Ken Clarke, observed, Mr Brown was playing "an absurd guessing game, giving journalists a clue and daring them to work out the answer".

Thus the Guardian confidently asserted that Mr Brown's latest definition would exempt both British Telecom and British Gas. This newspaper and the Financial Times asserted, on the other hand, that both were now directly in the firing line, along with the Recs and the water companies. The one area of general agreement appears to be that Associated British Ports is off the hook. Nice to know if you are ABP but not much help to anyone else, considering that enough energy has been expended on the subject to power a small town.

It is worth unpicking Mr Brown's words one by one, because in the space of a single simple phrase he can pack enough ambigu-ity to keep a lawyer in fees for a lifetime. We can agree on what constitutes a privatised company. But what is a utility? Water, gas and electricity yes. But what about telephones, airports and railway tracks? BAA has a monopoly on airports in the South-east and is price-regulated by statute, but it will dispatch a 3,000 word document setting the record straight if you dare suggest it is also

BT and British Gas may exhibit many of attempt to define more precisely who is in | the characteristics of monopolies. But in cer- though they are not monopolies, are not

tain parts of their business, they face intense competition, in others, stringent regulation, BG says Clare Spottiswoode's latest price controls would rob it off £850m - more than its annual profits - and force it to make half the workforce redundant. On the face of it that does not sound like lax regulation.

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The question of who qualifies is, then, tricky enough. Deciding how much they should pay is even more arbitrary. Mr Brown says it will be restricted to those utilities that were "under-valued" at flotation. But he also says it will only apply to that element of profits which are "excess". Most companies fall into the former category but not all fit the latter. If excess profits are measured by the extent to which total shareholder returns in these companies have outstripped the market average, then BT and

BG will not pay a penny. If the tax is based on straight market capitalisation, they will be the two most heavily penalised companies. However, research published recently by Simon Flowers, utilities analyst at NatWest Markets, suggests that even using the market capitalisation approach can produce wildly varying results. In three of the five scenarios he examines, BT pays nothing.

Interestingly, however, all of them assume that the two generators, National Power and PowerGen. are clobhered even

price-regulated and, on some definitions, are not even utilities.

The one certainty is that Labour will levy the tax - how else will it raise the £3bn needed for its employment programme? And the safest het is to assume it will be spread as widely as possible to cushion the

mpact on individual companies. Beyond that, the conjecture is as idle as guessing at the scale of Labour's victory on May. Tony Blair will work with whatever majority he gets. The utilities will have to live with whatever tax he levies, however unfair and arbitrary.

Could Toyota and the French get on?

What do you get when you cross Europe's most chauvinistic nation with Japan's most conservative car company? Answer: a £1bn Toyota factory in Lens, northern France. If you find all this just a touch unbelievable, then you are not alone.

The only thing the French and the Japanese car industry have in common is their animosity. It is not so long ago that the chairman of Peugeot, Jaques Calvet, described Britain as a Japanese aircraft carrier floating off the coast of Europe, a reference to the fact that we had become

good measure he also referred to the UK as the fifth island of Japan.

Surong words but scarcely surprising from nation which insisted that all Japanese ideo recorders came in through the obscure inland port of Poitiers and all Nissans from

Sunderland were Japanese.
It is just conceivable that the French have earnt their lesson. While the arrival of Japanese manufacturing techniques has helped revolutionise the British motor industry. France has slipped down the league, as Renault's current difficulties

But has Toyota been persuaded to switch ts investment strategy so fundamentally? It looked long and hard at Britain before deciding to invest £1bn at its Burnaston car plant. For that it got a site which, in configuration, mirrors its plant in Kentucky where Toyota turns out 400,000 cars a year.

Even at 200,000 cars a year. Burnaston will only just be an economic proposition. Why spend another £1bn and employ an extra 3,000 to build a similar sized plant on the other side of the Channel? More to the point, why pay French wage rates and social osts when Britain is so much cheaper.

The Japanese may not like our coolness towards a single currency but there are plenty of other compensations, starting with the language and the golf courses. Burnashome to its three biggest car-makers. For I ton should not throw in the towel just yet.

Dow Jones vows to fight £139m libel damages

David Usborne New York

The Dow Jones Company, publisher of the Wall Street Journal, is vowing to fight back after being slapped with record-breaking libel damages of \$222.7m (£139m) arising from an article survive judgments like this," reabout a now-defunct Texas

award to the former owners and stratospheric that, if they were employees of MMAR Group of to be sustained, they would Houston. MMAR went out of lead to a sea change in the bebusiness shortly after publica- haviour of all journalists". tion of the 1993 article that sar-

"Make Money And Run". 📑 radically reduce the leeway al. ordered the journalist, Laura lowed to financial journalists in Jereski, to pay \$20,000. The the US in corporate reporting. damages amount to more than It would also badly hurt the four impestite previous record Dow Jones company, which is the 13 Bell as already facing unrest among 100 does pleaded to appeal members of its founding farmer instants. We were chronicing ly because of a disappointing the difficulties of this company;

There remains a high probability, however, that the publisher will be able to have the damages significantly reduced and even thrown out of court. Historically, appeals against damage awards of this kind tend to be successful.

"No journalistic organisation, no matter how wealthy, can marked Floyd Brown, a freedom-of-speech lawyer in New A jury in Dallas made the York. "The numbers are so

The jury set \$200m in punicastically dubbed the firm tive damages against the pub-"Make Money And Run". Lisher and added another If upheld, the damages could \$22.7m in compensation. It also

ly we are disappointed. The punitive damages are com-pletely unfounded. I don't believe they can be supported as a matter of law. There's no evidence the reporter or the Wall Street Journal had any doubts

about the truth of the story".

The article implied that MMAR had been reckless in its mortgage-backed securities business and was under investigation by US regulators. It said that MMAR mispriced securities to disguise a loss of \$50m in dealings for the Louisiana state pension fund. It also described MMAR owners spending \$8,000 in one night entertaining Japanese brokers in a tonless har

ing extravagant libel damages. The jury may have been moved

Jim George, the lawyer for ists are held by the American Dow Jones, added: "Obvious-public in general.

Recent months have seen two libel suits succeeding against the ABC television network, one resulting in \$10m damages awarded to a Florida doctor, and another in \$5.5m for a supermarket chain.

The previous libel damages record was in a case against AH Belo of Texas which was hit with \$58m in damages. That case was later settled out of court, however, for an undisclosed

The award has come at a delicate time for Dow Jones, which is already battling bad publicity over the dissatisfaction of its shareholders. Dow Jones has been unable to give momentum to its share price in part because Texas is renowned for award- of the disappointing performe extravagant libel damages. mance of its troubled financial information service, Telerate. by the subsequent fate of Unconfirmed rumours surfaced MMAR which was forced to last month that Reuters was

Wace in red as chairman quits

Patrick Tooher

Wace, the specialist printing and imaging group, yesterday reported its second loss in four ears and said Franten Bos was quitting as chairman.
The £2m loss follows three

profit warnings last year which saw Wace's share price collapse from a peak of 279p to 57p. Last night the shares closed unchanged at 91.5p, valuing the company at £72m

Analysts said the results were in line with a warning from chief executive Trevor Grice in October that the costs of a big restructuring programme would plunge Wace into the red.

Wace, which made profits of £20.5m in 1995, took an exceptional charge of £13.9m last year to cover the cost of exiting paper-based commodity printing to focus on higher-margin electronic publishing and digital media.

A commercial print plant in tivities in Paris and Chicago deep disdain in which journal eventually to taking it over. I fewer sites and printing busi- cessor, John Clegg.

nesses in Holland and America are up for sale.

The only thing I've done at Wace is to make it smaller," said Mr Grice, who became chief executive in 1993. "Now for the first time I feel comfortable talk-

ing about growth and margins." But concerns about a sudden downturn in the US imaging market caused analysts to lower their forecasts.

Louise Barton at Henderson Crosthwaite said her profit forecast would be cut from £13m to between £5m and £10m. "I think Mr Grice has learned some lessons but the damage in the US has already been done," she said.

Wace said Mr ten Bos, a former Scottish rugby international, had "expressed a wish to step down but will continue in office until a new chairman is found." He has been chairman of Wace for seven years.

A Department of Trade and Industry inquiry continues into Glasgow was shut, imaging ac- allegations of insider dealing marked the Journal's managing The award also highlights the Jones, perhaps with a view have both been moved on to Wace under Mr Grice's prede-

IN BRIEF

 Pearl Assurance yesterday joined the growing clamour from insurance companies for changes to the way redress is offered to victims of the pension transfer scandal, by proposing an alternative to existing guidance from the regulator. The insurer is proposing that, instead of calculating in detail how much com-pensation should be paid, policyholders should receive a "roughand-ready" top-up to their schemes. This would run alongside a guarantee that any shortfall would be made up at retirement.

Pearl's option follows Legal & General, which has proposed that companies be allowed to guarantee to match company scheme benefits at retirement, rather than pay redress immediately. However, the Personal Investment Authority, the financial regulator tasked with ensuring swift redress, is against this proposal.

 Surveyors and valuers are under growing pressure not to block house purchases by undervaluing the property, according to David Jenkins of the Centre for Research into the Built Environment at University of Glamorgan. In 70 per cent of cases the valuation is identical to the price of the transaction. Surveyors are under extra pressure not to block a sale by undervaluing property when prices are rising, and when lenders also own the estate agents handling the sale. He recommends surveyors should not be told the price which borrowers are proposing to pay.

 Frost Group, the UK's largest independent petrol retailer, made another attack on Esso for launching a petrol price war last year. Frost announced a 31.4 per cent fall in profits before exceptional items last year to £10.4m, but said its policy of re-fusing to join the battle and sell petrol at a loss had been proved right. Turnover fell by 5 per cent to £429.7m. The company slashed the number of franchised filling stations last year following the £83m takeover of Burmah Castrol's UK petrol retailing and wholesaling business almost two years ago. Of the 907 Burmah franchises, just 200 are left. However the number of company-owned sites fell less sharply, by 30. The company's share of the UK market dropped last year from 4.7 per

 A new voluntary code of practice for mortgage lenders launched yesterday by the Council of Mortgage Lenders received a qualified welcome from the Consumers Association. It remains a voluntary code and will only be "brought to the attention of mortgage brokers. The code requires lenders to explain differ-ent repayment methods, rates of interest, charges and all special conditions such as repayment penalties. They should also make clear which of three levels of service they are offering; advice and recommendations, a range of information for the borrower to make an informed choice, and information on a single product only. The code promises sympathetic consideration for those in financial difficulties and sets up a complaints procedure.

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• Volkswagen, the German car maker, said operating profit in 1996 surged by more than 77 per cent to around DM1.97bn (£730m), reflecting the benefits of last year's cost-cutting measures. While full details of the results will not be released until 10 April, analysts predicted that the company would finally report a operating profit of DM2bn. "The numbers show their costcutting plan is really taking effect," said Michael Klein, an analyst at Delbrueck. Volkswagen's main cost-cutting is on the production side, where it is reducing the number of platforms used by its four car making plants from 16 to four Analysts estimate the company could save up to 30 per cent of production costs over the next few years.

 Boustead said the Stock Exchange agreed to extend the suspension of dealings in the company's shares until 21 June. The company said the extension has been granted to allow it to investigate several acquisition opportunities, and which may lead to a reverse takeover of Boustead.

* Software group chief goes

Clifford German

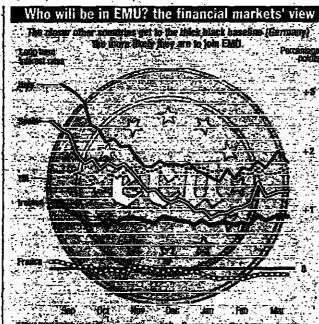
It was black day for departures in three company boardrooms yesterday. Anite Electronics, the communications software supplier formerly known as Cray Electronics, announced it had parted company with Jonathan Richards, chief executive. He leaves immediately with a

package estimated at £500,000. He has been blamed for the problems which led to three coninversial profits warnings and a £20m loss in 1995-96. TC Group, which created the

UK's largest nursing home group following the merger of Takare with Court Cavendish last year, said Hamilton Anstead. managing director, had left on "amicable terms". His receives payoff of around £400,000. The group, to be renamed

Care First announced pre-tax profits cut from £21.8m to £17m and said it was taking an exceptional £15.3m tax charge to take account of the decision to end spending on new nursing homes.

Dick Bostock, managing di-rector of Spandex, the Bristolbased sign-making supplier, has resigned to pursue other interests the company said yesterday.



TOWARDS Like It the line moves towards the German base the a means investors on bases treate such a high provest towards the German base the a means investors on bases temperate such a high province for bolding that country's bonds compared to German white because which are confident the correct world devote against the Mark. In other words, they think that country will be locked him a single content; with Germany in the price date.

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When will EMU start? The City Analysts View.

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Loose talk creates a foretaste of turbulence

Politicians rather than new economic statistics were responsible for this week's turbulence in the financial markets surrounding fears of delays to European economic and mon-

etary union. In the middle of the week. dealers started selling Italian and Spanish bonds with abandon, and the lira reached its weakest point since it rejoined the exchange rate mechanism last November.

Robert Lind of ABN Amro said: "We had a taste of what is likely to happen if we hear a serious statement about a delay to EMU."

But the drama ebbed towards the end of the week as traders focused their attention on events in the US and the views of Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve chairman. Mr Lind said: "Had Mr Greenspan's comments not distracted the markers, the lira would have been in serious trouble."

As a result, our graph shows that the gap between Germany and Italy fell slightly compared to the end of last week, as markets calmed down again. In fact the closing gap by Friday between Italian and German bonds doesn't entirely reflect EMU concerns. According to Richard



Cooper

Reid of UBS, investors are shifting out of bonds everywhere. As

a result German and Italian bonds both did badly last week. The trigger for the mid-week turbulence was a spate of candid and contradictory state-ments about EMU from German politicians, bankers

and officials. Martin Brookes of Goldman Sachs said: "There hasn't been any economic news to justify the reaction in the markets. Instead the markets have been reacting to sentiment. It has suddenly become acceptable in Germany to discuss delaying EMU and that

has upset traders." Klaus-Dieter Kuehbacher, a Bundesbank council member, caused the biggest stir of the week when he said he thought Germany would not make the

Maastricht borrowing criteria, and that it was better to delay than miss the criteria. His remarks followed closely on a statement by the German Finance Minister Theo Waigel to his European colleagues on Monday, in which he reaffirmed that the criteria were more important than the timetable.

Mr Lind said: "A growing body of opinion in Germany is arguing for delay. But the debate is now being conducted in public and that is an extremely damaging thing to do, given the tetchiness of the markets." In fact the economic news this

weck was mildly encouraging on the EMU front. A survey of German business confidence was gently optimistic, suggesting that growth will pick up later in the year.

Carnival deal boosts Pan Am revivial

The resurrection of Pan Am, the American airline that resumed trading again last September following its collapse four years ago, was taken a stage further yesterday through a deal to buy Carnival Air Lines. Carnival Air, formed in 1988,

operates a fleet of 27 jet aircraft that operate between South Florida the Northeast California and the Caribbean. The airline, which had revenues last year of about \$270m (£168m), is majority owned by Micky Arison, the chairman and chief executive big shareholder in Airoturs, the second largest tour operator in

This is Pan Am's second at-

tempt at buying Carnival Air. Last July it pulled out of a deal that involved paying around \$100m for the airline. Pan Am said yesterday that it had arranged financing that, when combined with the additional investment from Mr Arison, will give it \$60m of working capital. Pan Am has four A300's with two more to be delivered in the

The Standard Life Assurance Company Annual General Meeting

The 171st Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held in Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road, Edinburgh on Tuesday 22 April 1997 at 2.30pm.

A member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote. A proxy need not be a member.

By order of the Board of Directors Alan R Forbes

Secretary. Edinburgh, 20 March 1997

Policyholders may obtain a copy of the Annual Report and Accounts, including the agenda, by writing to the Customer Service Information Team at PO Box 141, 1 Tanfield, Edinburgh EH3 SRG or by telephoning (0131) 245 2668. Proxy forms may be similarly obtained by members entitled to vote.



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of Carnival Corp, which operates Carnival Cruise Lines and is a details of the deal rae not being released, it was disclosed that Mr Arison will make a \$30m capital investment which will result in him holding around 9.5 million Pan Am shares.

have impacted on Prism. "In-

deed Prism is currently a significant net beneficiary under

the performance regimes in

Trace Computers held at

32

12 12

10 10

PizzaExpress sizzles as takeover rumours linger Data Bank FISE 100 4254.8 -3.3 FTSE 250 4565.0 -0.2 **FTSE 350** 2104.4 -1.3 SEAO VOLUME pricing the pizza cham at more than £500m.

1bn shares, 61,844 bargains Gilts Index

n∕a share price, perice



PizzaExpress had the stock in the following year. Profits market in a rare old pickle. In hectic trading the shares were US investors have been keen

Stories of US buying – and inevitably a possible takeover bid – inspired the sizzling display. But David Page, chief ex-ecutive, dismissed bid talk. "I have received no bid ap-

no bid approach in the last 24 hours," he said. Takeover chatter, however, lingered. Grand Metropolitan and Whitbread led the list of predatory candidates. Assorted US groups were also in the

proach in the last 10 years and

Buy circulars have, without treat, although it retained the

at one time showing a 110p on the shares for some time. gain to a peak of 820.5p. They ended 57p higher at 767.5p, the investment group which has acquired such a taste for the JD Wetherspoon pub chain, had at the last count 18.07 per cent of the capital and is thought to remain a keen buyer.

PizzaExpress, with more than 150 pizza restaurants and a food and drink importing arm, is one of the share success stories of the 1990s.

It arrived via a reverse takeover of a struggling computer group four years ago. Then the price was around 20p. least managed to settle down after Thursday's ragged re-

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

4,254.8 in, once again, active trading with turnover, swollen by bed and breakfast deals, top-

ping 1 billion shares.

RAT Industries ignored the Liggett lawsuit capitulation, recovering a 22.5p fall to close 5p higher at 494p. Imperial Tobacco settled 2p lower at 419.5p. Goldman Sachs regards BAT as a strong buy. Other blue chips active in-

The rest of the market at cluded Commercial Union, up 19p at 660p on a resurgence of takeover talk, and United News & Media, 21p higher at

stock market reporter of the year

Irish retail operations, added 14.5p to 526p.

Howden, the engineer which denied any takeover approach on Monday, jumped 36.5p to 128p as Charter, which has made no secret of takeover ambitions, launched an agreed cash and share offer. Charter

Foods, collecting £640m for its

cash and share offer. Charter fell 40p to 847.5p.

Phoenix Timber was another in the takeover arena, gaining 2.5p to 22.5p as the Co-operative Retirement Benefit Fund offered 23p for the 22.5 per formal supplications of the 22.5 per formal supplications of the shares have come.

treatment, suffered a 27.5p fall to 380p. Others lower included Celltech (29.5p to 580p) and Biocompatibles International (77.5p to 1,175p). Shield Diagnostic ended an eventful week with a 30p gain to 650p. Its eagerly awaited presentation takes place on Monday.

Monday. It was, as far as the day's two newcomers were concerned, a game of two halves. Chariton Athletic, the football club, scored an own goal. At one time its shares were down at 56.5p from an 80p placing.

68.5p as MMT Computing moved its stake to 7.12 per cent but Active Imaging crashed 42p to 46.5p as TVX, a US group, dropped bid plans.

CPL Aromas was another casualty, falling 70p to 120p. The fragrance maker warned profits would not reach the market's houes. market's hopes.

Taking Stock

None of SWI's problems

| Expect Enterprise Inns to roll out a bid for Discovery inns, the start-up chain which abandoned plans to float in December, next week. place and expects to remain To finance the deal Enterprise is said to be

place and expects to remain so." Stagecoach, owner of SWT, staged a modest rally, up 7.5p to 679p.
Flextech, the broadcaster, fell 44p to 635p as Goldman placed 9.3 million shares at 634.5p.
Trace Computers held at Trace Computers held at cent next. Enterprise, little changed at 248.5p, lifted its 68.5p as MMT Computing changed at 248.5p, lifted its pubs chain to 900 last year when it acquired John Labatt's retail interests. Discovery has around 275

> Photobition, offering printing services to the exhibition industry, slipped 5n to 426.5p. Merrill Lynch

| 400 350 300 250 MAMJ JAS DHD JFM | Buy circulars have, withou doubt, helped create fresh er thusiasm for the shares. Cred Lyonnais Laing last week fore cast profits of £15.2m for the year ending in June, with £23r | dubious distinction of so far falling on each day of the elec- tion campaign. Footsie, at one time up 15.8 | 753.5p, probably on dividend buying. | cent not already owned. The drug sector had a volatile session. Scotia, following its failure to obtain an- | after a dull run, gaining 55p to 350p. The shares have come down from 580p and the com- pany wonders whether the South West Trains fiasco has been a factor. | market's hopes. Netcall, a computer tele- phony group, rose 4p to 74.5p. The shares were 60.5p on Monday when it produced an upbeat trading statement. | exhibition industry, supper 5p to 426.5p. Merrill Lynch expects the company's profits to improve from £2.9m to £4.1m this year and reach £5.8m next. |
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sport

Tromans sets out with heart of oak

championships, which take place at Turin tomorrow, have already inspired one outstanding performance. Glynn Tromans, a 28-year-old marketing lecturer from Coventry, makes his British debut in the Italian city just 10 months after undergoing two serious heart operations.

This time last year, Tromans still thought he was an asthma sufferer. Troubled increasingly by breathlessness and sudden exhaustion, he had been advised the problem was caused by dust mites. Accordingly, he bought a special cover for his mattress, ripped the carpets up and got to work with the sander.

It was a false diagnosis. After suffering between 70 and 80 debilitating attacks, Tromans - at the prompting of the British cross-country team doctor, Frank Newton - consulted a cardiologist. He was told his problem was not asthma, but tachycardia, a condition in which extra nerve pathways in the heart cause oxygen deficiency and a racing pulse.

Tromans' career was in the balance. But he makes light now of the operations he underwent on 30 April and 13 May last year. "The main problem was in the 15 months or so beforehand when nobody knew what was wrong with me," Tromans said.

He had begun to train with a heart monitor in 1995, and three or four times a week he witnessed his heart rate jumping from around 145 beats a minute up to 220. "I would feel a bit of tightness in my chest," he recalled, "and two seconds later the bleepers would be warning me that my pulse had leapt up. I would feel like I had just finished an 800 metres race swimming in lactic acid and with no drive in my arms or legs.

Once I knew I had a heart condition which could be corrected through an operation, it was just a matter of getting it Mike Rowbottom on one runner's will to overcome his misfortune

"I think it was far more traumatic for my fiancée, Lisa, my parents and Dave Dix, who has coached me for 13 years. He was more nervous about it than I was. But I never had any second. thoughts - apart from once, a minute before they wheeled me off to the operating theatre." As Tromans lay on his trolley, a nurse presented him with a form requiring his agreement

'It was a strange experience because both operations were done under local anaesthetic'

to be fitted with a pacemaker if anything went wrong with the procedure. The chances were said to be no more than three per cent, but such an eventuality would have meant the end of his competitive career, if only because of the drugs he would have had to take to maintain the device,

"It was a strange experience," Tromans said, "because both operations were done under local anaesthetic and I could see all the TV screens and bleeping monitors. For some reason I sat up during the sec-ond operation and the nurse asked if I'd mind lying down again because I was having live wires passed through my heart."

Sensibly, he complied. So swift was his necessary that he was his necessary that he was

swift was ins recovery that he was picked for the European Crosscountry Championships last

drop out with a calf injury.

Tomorrow, three weeks to the day that he claimed the fourth amountic qualifying place in the British trials, he is due to take his career to a new level in what is only his second overseas race. After earning his world cross place at Luton - watched by his

girlfriend, parents, grandparents and dog Morris - Tromans was likened by Bud Baldaro, the Great Britain coach, to a Sunday football player making the Premiership in his late twenties. Tromans considers that anal-

ogy a little far-fetched, given that he has previously repre-sented England. "I think I have always had the potential to be an international runner. But there is no question that this is a significant step up for me." One of the more remarkable

aspects of Tromans's career is the way he has performed, even while his training has been reg-ularly disrupted. In 1995, for instance, he was placed fourth in the National Cross-country Championships, won the Inter-Counties title and finished second to Keith Cullen, the trials winner at Luton, in his England track de-bat over 3,000m, despite suffer-ing an attack in the warm-up. As he looked forward to Tirm,

Tromans' reaction was one of embarrassment over the attention he has received at the expense of Cullen or Britain's European cross-country champion, Jon Brown. But there was no disguising his excitement. "This is very much a start for me," he said. "I am hoping to transfer all this into a summer of racing 5.000m on the track."

One troubling thought re-mains, however, Morris, who arrived in the Tromans household from a dog rescue society six weeks ago, has given the sanded floorboards what might be termed a distressed look. "He's scratched them to hell," Tromans said. He didn't sound



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Given Tromans (No 8) earns his chance at the British trials Photograph: Mark Shearman

Britain looking to raise cross-country profile

The Parco del Valentino in the centre of Turin, its surrounding roads turfed over at a reputed. cost of £1m, awaits entrants from a record number of 68 countries for the 25th World Boston in 1992 to win his fifth tomorrow. But one country stands alone once again, writes

Mike Rowbottom. Asked whether he could foresee Kenya failing to maintain Meir domination of this event ever the last decade, the British team manager, Dave Clarke, had a bold stab. "Kenyans don't run well on... something?"

If the image of snow had been The most likely challenger to forming in Clarke's mind, it was the Kenyans' men's preobviously superceded by the eminence is Salah Hissou, the memory of John Ngugi charg-ing through the white wastes of ver medal of last year with a

That particular position has been kept in Kenyan possession since by William Sigei and Paul Tergat, who is seeking his hattrick. Kenya's men have won every team title since 1986; they also hold the individual and and unior team titles.

world 10,000 metres record of

But where does this leave Britain? Success at the European Cross-country Championships in December, when Jon Brown took the individual title and the women's team finished third, moving up to the silver poteam titles at junior level, while Kenya's woman hold the senior sition following the disqualifi-cation of Romania, has raised the domestic profile in the sport.

The squad goes to Italy with the realistic ambition of finish-International Amateur Athletic Federation. ing as the top European team Keith Cullen and Andrew in both senior events. To do so,

Pearson both look capable of a the men will have to reverse the top 25 finish, which would put position of last year when they Britain within reach of their tar-British debut just 10 months af-Brown, top individual Euroter having two heart operations, is seeking a top 50 place in what pean last year in 12th place, is set on a top 10 position this year. is only his second race abroad. He beat Tergat over a muddy

The women are led by the top Briton in the European Championships, Hayley Haining, Lucy Elliott - currently third in the World Cross Challenge standings - and Paula Radcliffe, who mo Nebiolo, the president of the

has been preparing at altitude in Albuquerque.

But with nine entrants per country in the men's events, and seven for the women, this is a fearsomely tough competition. sounds rubbish," Clarke said. "But to anyone who knows the sport, it is an awesome run."

Whatever the result, the event this year is likely to provide a memorable spectacle. Nebiolo has spoken hopefully of attracting 20,000 spectators to the city centre - and, what Nebiolo wants, he usually gets. | round of the year.

retirement after victory final, they were one under par

Hall returns to

Golf ANDY FARRELL

reports from Sunningdale

Julie Hall's next appointment at Sunningdale is a site planning meeting on Monday for the Weetabix Women's Open. The clubs will have to go back into the cupboard from where they came just over a month ago when Helen Wadsworth phoned her up looking for a partner for the Foursomes.

Hall, one of the last great amateur players, retired from competitive golf after her fifth Curtis Cup appearance at Killarney last June. Now secretary of the Ladies' Golf Union, she has the pick of the St Andrews' courses when time in the office drags. Instead, she spent more time over the winter playing badminton.

In their seventh match in four days, Hall was complaining of sore feet, shins and hands. Three vital interventions on the greens, however, dispatched the former European tour players Jeremy Robinson and David Jones to a 4 and 3 defeat and meant Hall and Wadsworth, the Welsh professional, became the first female partnership to win the event since Dale Reid and Corinne Dibnah in 1990.

Although under the revived handicap system, Hall and Wadsworth received eight shots from their professional opponents, they played good golf all week. In their morning semi-

for 13 holes off the men's tees in beating Bedfordshire ama-teurs, John Kemp and Mark Wilcox, 6 and 5.

Jones had to hole his eagle putt at the first to win the first and the rest of the final never lived up to that start. All square at the turn, Hall and Wadsworth won the 10th and were handed the 12th when Robinson drove into a ditch. Hall then holed from eight feet for a half at 13, from 15 feet to go three up with four to play, and from 10 feet at the short 15th for a par.

Jones, who holed a brave sixfooter on the last to beat Wayne Riley and Gary Smith in the semi-finals, then had to hole from three feet to continue the match, but left it on the right lip.

"I can't wipe the smile off my face," Hall said. "I knew I was swinging the club well when I came here, you can't lose it that quickly. The next time I play in competition, though, may not be until we defend here next year. One chap asked me this week when my season started and I

Statist Was It.

SUMMINGONE FOURSOMES Semi-finals: J
Robinson (The Valle) and D Jones (Three
Robers) by G Smith (Camberley Health) and W
Riley (Australia) one hore; J hell (Ladybank) and
H Wadsworth (WFGET) by J Kemp and M Wilcon,
John O'Gsunds) six and fine. Finals Hall and
Wadsworth by Robinson and Jones four and three. Lee Westwood shattered the course record with a 10-underpar 63 in the second round of the Turespaña Masters in Gran Canaria yesterday. His 63 beat the previous record by three shots.

Rusty Woods sharp enough for second

For Tiger Woods, this was one of his worst days at the office, but he still managed to finish the first round of the Bay Hill Invitational in Orlando one shot behind the leader, Paul Stankowski.

"I didn't hit it well at all, missed a lot of fairways, and wasn't sharp with my irons." said the 21-year-old Woods, who returned after a two-week break with a bogeyless, six-under-par 68. "I grinded it around and got it in the hole somehow. Those are great rounds when you don't play well but can get to the

challenge on 70, followed by Nick Faldo (71) and Colin Montgomerie (73). Sandy Lyle shot a 75.

Stankowski, who has already won the Hawaiian Open and led last week's Honda Classic at the half-way, said his 67 was his best

"I'm especially pleased with how I placed my iron shots. Today I was hitting it close," said Stankowski, whose only bogey came from a rare missed green. Though there was little wind

and the course was in perfect condition, scores were generally high. "It just shows you what a good test it is," said Steve Jones, the US Open champion, who is also one shot off the lead.

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The course designer, Arnold Palmer, playing in his first tournament since surgery for prostate cancer, shot a nine-over par 81. "It was as solid as I've hit the ball in a couple of years. Ian Woosnam led the British I felt very lucky just to be out there," he said. RAY HILL INVITATIONAL (Orlando, Florida)

BAY HILL INVITATIONAL (Grando, Frodia): Leeding Brist-troand socres (ISS unless stat-ed): 67 P Stankowste, 68 B Andrade, S. Jones, TWoods, F Funk, 68 O Urests, J Bader, C Per-y, S Pate, P Stewer, P Goydos, T Rute, V Singh IFyih, B Langer (Ger), Selected: 70 N Ozald Lapan), C Beck, N Proc (Zim), T Letman, E Els (SA), J Maggert, I Woosman (GB), 71 N Fador (GB), 72 C Parry (Mas), W Grady (Aus), 73 C Montgomerie (GB), R Altenby (Aus), Appleby (Aus), D Frost (SA), 75 S Lyle (GB).

Schultz quick to justify his Test recall

ANDY COLOUHOUN reports from Pretoria Australia 227 v South Africa .

Sixteen months after his last Test. Brett Schultz took four wickets to put South Africa on top after the first day of the Third and final Test at Centurion Park yesterday.
The fast howler's 4 for 52,

South Africa's best of the series, helped his side bowl out Australia. for 227 after they put them in to bat, Allan Donald weighed in with 3 for 60 and, when he had

Ian Healy brilliantly caught down the legside by Dave Richardson, he became only the second South African after Hugh Tayfield to claim 150 Test wickets. Schultz, recalled because of

Shaun Pollock's injury, bowled Matthew Hayden in his fourth over of the morning and then took a difficult running catch on the fine leg boundary to dismiss Marthew Elliott.
Mark Waugh was bowled by

Donald three overs after bunch and the Australian captain, Mark Taylor, was caught behind aiming a loose drive at Lance Kinsener, Taylor's 38 took 197 minutes and means he has not

reached 50 in a Test in 19 innings spanning 15 months. An 80-run partnership for the fifth wicket between Steve Waugh and Greg Blewett, who

put on 385 in the first Test, revived Anstralia but Blewett was caught behind as he attempted to cut the off-spinner Pat Symcox. Schultz then took three wickets in as many overs. Steve Wangh (67) was caught down the leg side by Richardson - although replays suggested the ball had flicked his pad - and Michael Bevan and Shane Warne were adjudged lbw in the

space of four balls. Donald's landmark came in the penultimate over, and the day ended with Klusener bowling Glenn McGrath.

fourth-placed Spaniards.

course in Seville in December.

but he cannot hope for similar

conditions at an occasion which

is being stage-managed by Pri-

AUSTRALIA - First Innings AUSTRALIA - First Innings

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

Fogarty's Ducati becomes the bike to beat glare will be hard to shift from son, but cruised to victory at challengers who may also be

Motorcycling ANDREW MARTIN

Never one to underestimate his own worth, Carl Fogarty embarks on a new World Superbike season tomorrow at Phillip Island in Australia with an extra reserve of confidence. Reunited with the Ducati that carried him to two successive world titles, the 30-year-old rider from Blackburn will prove a fearsomely hard man to beat in the 12-round championship which culminates at Sentul, Indonesia.

Fogarty's famously intense

the prize that eluded him last season during an unhappy flirtation with the Honda RC45.

Yesterday he trailed in fifth fastest in qualifying, behind the rapid Kawasaki-mounted pair of Akira Yanagawa and Simon Crafar. The former took provisional pole, three-tenths of a to beat those Ducatis." second inside the lap record set by Aaron Slight last year.

Fogarty faces a sterling challenge from the Yamaha SBKmounted Colin Edwards and the swaggering Scott Russell. The latter was unceremoniously dumped from the Suzuki 500cc grand prix team last sea-

Daytona last week. He also beat Fogarty to the 1993 WSB title and is clearly comfortable aboard the YZF750. Ever modest, Russell declared this week: "I'm back and I'm going to do some damage in WSB this season. I'm already getting ready

Such bluster cuts little ice with Fogarty, however, "He [Russell] won't beat me or his team-mate [Edwards] this season," Fogarty said. "I aim to win the title back for British fans whatever it takes." Admirably patriotic and all

that, but there are other British

waving the Union Jack from the rostrum this season.

Fogarty's Ducati Corse teammate, Neil Hodgson, a promising 23-year-old from Burnley. has much to prove, as does Jamie Whitham, who beat cancer last season to narrowly miss out on the British Superbike title. First he must tame his GSX-R Suzuki. however.

Fogarty may not have found the Castrol Honda to his taste, but the pairing of last season's runner-up, Slight, with the volatile American, John Kocinski, should mount a formidable challenge.

TODAY Football

FA CARTIFICATION DAY.

FA CARTIFICATION VASE Semi-finals record log. North Femby (2) v Gusborough (3); Whiteby (1) v Bansteed (3).

by 13) v Bonsteed (D).

Gall VALDORALL CONFERENCE: Bronsegore
Rower v Hayes; Ferrborough Town v Monthwich Victoria; Hednesford Town v Mittering;
Yown; Marchesfield Town v Gatesthead; Monecambe v Down; Rushiden & Olemonds v Kellord;
Slough v Sostipport; Stalybridge v Kidderminster; Weiling v Altmicham.

cambe v Ooser, Rushinden & Olemands v Teithert,
Sough v Southert. Stablert Ber V Boderninster, Weiting v American Stabert.

KES LEAGUE Premier Division: Bishop's
Sonthord v Sustan (20), Borelier: Wood v
Stames; Brontley v Graps; Carladon Athletic v Kingstoner; Cherisely v St. Alberts: Henden v Hamow Borough; Odord City v Dulmech
Harrise; Yasading v Purificent Veoral v Aylestour;
Harrise; Yasading v Purificent, Veoral v Roberts

V Morthang; Mannou v Basingstone; Malessey v
Thirre; Unbrudge v Leyton Permant; Walliam &
Hersham v Harryton; Valungham v Convey
Island, Sectional Division: Brackmell v Doots
ing; Challont St. Pager v Harrytond v Hernis
Hernpateat; Lasingstone; Brackmell v Doots
Hersham; Colleg Roos & Roomford v Welmbley;
Ediparan Clone v Ribury; Harryschod v Hernis
Hernpateat; Lasingstone; Brackmell Scannove
v Northanout; Caption v Hadow; Epoten & Essal
V Cambarley; Hornchustri v East; Taumoch;
Krigsbury v Placioned Herst; Lewes v Tange;
Southal v Medistone; Prosmier Debiston; AfreWellstone; Myngace & Frinchey
Wellstone; Myngace & Frinchey
Wellstone; Myngace & Frinchey
Wellstone; Myngace & Frinchey
Wellstone; Myngace & Frinchey

7-ORBD LEAGUE Promier Division: Altro-han's Barrier Bedge; Barrier Byd: Spai-Boston Lad v Riconsley; Gainsborough ry Lancaser Cay, Cuinsley e Lock Towns URO v Enter: Annown a Forther Astine. Truthy Lancaster Coy, Calassiev v Leck Town, Hyde Und v Emisy, Ramoom » Fruckey Affeit-re, Spernymay Use v Acamagian Stanley, Wats-tord Und v Chipley, Pleat Deletioner Reseaton It v Introde-Town; Congleton Town v Brad-ford Park Avenue; Fixton » Geoma, Geom Har-wood Town v Estatonol Coort, Hangelia Town v Leigh BMI; Lancoin Und v Droylatdert Nether-fucts » Farstley Celac, Warder, Bly v Warming, Early Workington v Stockstandge PS, Worksop Town v Custom Advisor. DR MARTENS LEAGUE Promine Division: Athentions + Hassings: Balcock Town v Ach-Lea Town; Chalenders' Mandator; Castachen

v Burton Ablant, Crawley Town v Gravesend
A Northfleet: Greefley Rovers v Merrbyr Tydfit,
Salisbury v Cantondige City, Sittingbourne v
Heissowen Rown, Sactoury Rown v Newport, APC,
Worcester Carry v Kings Lyrn, Middlend Dielsions Bedwarth Utd v Shepshed Dynatho, Corby Town v Soliked Borough, Dudley Town v
Sutton Coldifield Town, Evestran Utd v Raundis Town; Hindigh Town v Redditch Utd; Moor
Green v Biston Town; Pager Rangers v Rauston Town; Wahnack v Stefford Rangers,
Stoudholde v Grantenn Town; Pamorth v VS
Raighy, Southern Stression: Crinderford Town
Verymouth; Chrencester Town v Trowbridge
V Neymouth; Chrencester Town v Yalen Town;
Hawset Town v Weston-Super-Marte, Newport
Loff v Earth & Beberdere, St Leonards Stancoll v Bashley; Waterforcells v Medigner; Win-Tomaton, Tomato v recognition and the American Standard S

Wick v Pescelaren & Telecombe.

1284 SPORT UNITED COMMITES LEAGUE
Premiter Districte Boston Town v Mempston;
Cogenhae v Long Buckley, Holbench v Ford
Sports; M Blacksoms v Mategoboush; Newport Pagnet v Eynesbury, Porton v Wootton;
Spalking v Northerngon; Spercer Stewarts &
Loyde Corte v Bourne; Langue Cup third
reund; Classy v St Neots. Semi-final: Desborough v Stottold.

Scripting Confert LEAGUE Premiter Dis-

borough v Stotool.

SCHENHFIX ORRECT LEAGUE Premier Divi-sion: Balefort v Chapterham Town; Brating-ton v Mesthury End; Old Down v Bustol Menor Farm; Paston Bovers v Braderel Like Taurion Town v Bridgort; Tourington v Twenton Town. Tomo v Bridgori, Yochigon v Jermin Ilova.
MARTHERIN COLANIES RAST LEAGUE Premier Dielecter. Armificate Weitere v Ginestongions Weiter: Armif v Theology, Astrictle
Berl v Stellect, Strigt Town v Ossett, Albion;
(Aestracte v Dermoy Und; Mantay MW v
Hachard: Oncer Down V Heiler: Redening Town
v Historical Main; Portofract v Solby. NORTH WEST COUNTES LEACHE Past Di-leges Anamo Colleges V Sastrood Han-ley, Stackpool Rovers V Glossop North End;

Boote v Seiford City; Holler Old Boys v Prescot Cables; Klasgrove v Vaudrall GM; Maina Road v Catheroe; Mossley v Chedderror; Newcas-te Town v Busscough; Pentith v Rossendale; St Helens v Narrowich; Trafford v Darwen. SE Heers V MESSEX LEAGUE: Lymington v Whitefurnin Andower V East Course View BAT Sports: V Essport Borough: Bernerson Heath v Petersheld; Bournemouth FC v Romasy; Christohurch v Totton; Cowes Sports v Aerostructures; Essetieigh v Downton; Porsmouth RN v Ryde Sports; Wimborne v Brockenhurst. RN v Ryde Sports; Wimborne v Brockenhurst.

JEVISOR EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Divialen: Buy Tour v Felistowe; Diss v Neumarket; Felenhurt v Woodshridge; Grest
Yamoush v Warboys; Haddeigh w March: Halstead v Gortestor; Louestoff v Henrich & Pariestor; Scharm v Sudboury Wanderers;
Scharmfest v Clector; Wisbech v Tjotner; Windham v Sudbury Town.

WITERLINK EXPRESS MIDIAND ALLIANCE:
Barwell v Blowlich; Blakenall v Oldbury Utd;
Boldmers v Richteest v Pelsal Ville; Chaetown v Hincidey Athletic; Halesowen Hadders
v Rushall Olympic; Rocaster v Pesshore Town;
Sandwell Borough v Bridgmorth Town; Shrind
Town v Williarheit; Stapenhill v Knypersley Vicpost; Stratford Town v West Midlands Polica.

FEDERATION BRIEWERY NORTHERN

 Author, West Autosano V Lote Holen.
 PRESS & JOURNAL HRHUAND LEAGUE
 Bucke Ristle v Ketri, Cove Rangers v Fraserburgs; Fort William v Peterhead; Huntly v Bro arangers; Naim County v Cachinacutdin.
 McEWANS LAGER NORTH CUP Final:
 Lossemouth v Fores Mechanics (at Eigh). Lossiemouth v Fortes Mechanics (at Eigh).
saturation: Restal Leadule Pressien Division:
Coleraine v Cidonvalle, Cruisiders v Linfledt.
Glerinsten v Gleravon; Portodown v Ards. Flest.
Divisione Ballychev v Jame; Bangor v Omegr.
Dissillen v Bellymene; Newsy v Centick.
LEAGUE OF WALES; Abenschupth v Rhyl; Bangor City v Webshopol; Bany Town v Connaha
Quay; Cumbran v Caernarion Town; Ebba Vale
v Cennaes Bay (2.30); Holywell v Briton Fery; Larragentificati v Porthmidog, Newtown v
Intel Cable-Tel Caddif, Ton Perstre v Cadraws.

Rugby League SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP Semi Helens v Selford (2,30) (at Wigen) Rugby Union

COURNAGE CLUBS* CHAMPIONISHEP National League Own: Firston V Sale: Harrisquins V West Harrisquins V West Harrisquins V West Harrisquin; Wasps v Ornal (or Surduny). National League Two: Blackhesch v Notungham; Cordon Sootish v Coversy; Newsosis v Mosels; Rotherham v Bedford; Rugby v Richmond; Westedoo v Walerleidd, National League Three: Clifton v Exets; Pytde v Wharfedele; Hawars v Rossiny Paric Luverpool St Helens v Reading; Lydney v London Westr, Morley v Harrisgues; Rossiny By v London Westr, Morley v Harrisgues; Rossiny By Person Gresshoppers: Kendal v Sendal; Manchester v Hereford; Nurseston v Shelinelt, Suke-on-liera v Aspaline, Shoundidge v Lichteide, Worcester v Wennington Park. National League Four South. COURAGE CLUBS' CHAMP Weston-super-Mare; Charlton Park v Met Poloc; High Wycombe v Chelton/ham; Newbury
v North Walsham; Plymouth v Tabard.
SWALEC CUP Quarter-finals: Cardiff v South
Veales Police (2.30); Lanell v Portypcol (2.30).
WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE First Division:
Dunsant v Neath (2.30); Newbridge v Treorby
(2.30). Second Division: Aberdyon v Abercynon (2.30); Bonymaen v Aber-lileny (2.30);
Meesting v Yibradgivibale (2.30); DWIC v
Cross Keys (2.30).
SRU TERNEDITS 1558 CUP Fourth round:

Cross Keys (2.30).

SRU TENNENTS 1.556 CLP Fourth round: Apr v Misics; Berwick v Corstorphine; Currie v Gale; Dundse HSPP v Glasgow Apads; Edinburgh Acade v Kürnsannock; Edinburgh Link v Glernothes; Glasgow Southern v Abardeen GSPP; Hawlet, V Boroughmannock; Edinburgh Link v Stewert's Mehrele PP; Henot's PP v Jed-Fores; Visicalidy v Hamilton Apads; Peeblas v Missesburgh; S Boswells v Mislose; Saring County v Stewerty; West of Scotland v Glasgow HK. Teangesta 1,556 Bowl First round: Biggs v Gortonians; Buse v Dunfarminer; Grangemouth v Howe of Fife; Haddington v Seelvic Heinsburgh v Carrian Queen's Park; Uningston v Aberdeensine; Presion Lodgs v Garnock; Tenly Acade v Langfolm; ty Acads v Lane LNGLD-WELSH CUP Pool 28: Northampton

V Nesport.

MESURANCE CORPORATION LEAGUE First.

Division 2, 30): Ballymera v Ganyowen; Cork.

Constitution v Backrock College; Instrumens v Dungarinor; Lansdone v Old Wesley; Old Crascert v Young Munster; Shannon v Tererure Coll; St Mary's College v Old Belvedere. Second Division (2,30): Bactive Rangers v Deny; Highfield v Wanderses; Monfestown v Dolphin; NIFC v Martiner Sternes v Greyesones; Sunday's Well v Clottarf; UCC v DLSP.

INTERNAEDIATE KNOCKOUT CUP Semi-diasis: Middlesbrough v Doncaster (at Otley): Thanet Wanderers v Sudbury (at Henley). JUNEOR KNOCKOUT CUP Semi-finals: Crew & Nantwich v Pansetck (2.30) for Lichfield Huddersteld YMCA v Harpenden (2.30) for Bu

in October.

Hockey MASTRO AZZURRO SOLITH Premier: Wok-ingham v Gord Court.
WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEASUE Premier: Sef-sam Leuester v Igswich (12.30); Ciflon v Tro-lens (12.30): Harhown v Donoster (12.0); WONER'S MATIONAL DASSIGE Premier: Se-sem Lysissier v Ipswch (12,30); Cliffon v Tro-jons (12,30); Hightown v Donosster (12,01; Sough v Stom Coldfield (2,0). First Othelone Blueharts v Wernbledon (12,30); Bradford Surthenbank v Bracknell (1,50); Camesbury v Sunderband (12,0); Olton v Chelmstord Broad-osk (2,0). Second Obvisione Ealing's West Wit-riey (1,15); Loughborough Students v Semouth (2,30); Sherwood v Old Loughtonians (12,0); Woldner v St. Albans (2,0).

WORLEN'S WEST Presider; Cheltenham v Rediend; Colvell v Eteter; Leominster v Bouthernham: St Australi - Vote 呐; 32 / ROYAL AL-FAISEL WOMEN'S MIDLAND Pro-

York, Welton v Liverpool.

WOMEN'S EAST SUPER LEAGUE First Divisions: Agriford v Bury St Edmunds; Bedeyhaath v Herlesson Magness; (pawel v Cambridge Cay; Sewtnoels, v Welwyn Gerden Cay; Wolden'S SOUTH First Divisions: Dulwich v Worthing, Hampissed & Westmisser v Winchmore Hit; Horsham v Southampton; Tulse Hill v Reading, Winchester v Cay of Potsmouth.

TRYSPORTS WOMEN'S THREE COUNTIES First Divisions: Brackwell v Ramelings; Fernham Common v Codord Univ. Henleigh; Fernham

Baskethali

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Crystal Palace v New-castle Eagles (6.0); Derby Storm v Lescatter Rufers; Hernel & Watford Royals v London Tow-ers; Worthing Bears v Sheffield Sharks (8.0). ers; Worning Sears v Sheffield Sharks (8.0).
1981. Mean's Frest Division: Liverbook v Solent
(3.30); Mid Sussex v Cardnif (7.30); Notting-ham v Ware (8.0); Oxford v Coventry (8.0).
1999. Morean's First Division: Barking & Dagen-ham v Northampton (8.0); Ipswich v Brin-ingkant (7.30); London v Thames Valley (8.0);
1999. Nottingam v Hantscher (8.0); Rhondda v Crys-tal Palace (6.30); Spellhorne v Sheffield (6.0).

SUPERLEAGUE CHAMPIONSHEP Send-finals: [Nymex, Areasa Meachester): Cardiff Davis v Sheffield Steelers (1.30): Notingham Partners v Ayr Scottish Eggles (6.30). PREMIER LEAGUE: Slough Jets v Guildford Parmes (6.30): Swindon Icelords v Kingston Hawks (6.30). NORTHERN PREMIER: Blackburn Hawks v Paisley Pirates (6.0); Peterborough Prates v Murrayfild-Royels (5.30); Whitley Warmors v File Piyers (6.30).

Speedway SPEEDWAY STAR CUP: Bradford v Swindon (7.30); Coventry v Wolverhampton (7.30).

BOWN.S: English Indoor Champion of Cham-pions (Bernlandge). BCOGNO: Professional Promotion: Super-middisvegit: J Cabagha (Wall v T Hughes (US); ports teamonages.

BOOMNE, Professional Promotion: Super-modisweger. J Cabagha (Wall VI Hughas (US), World Boung Organisation light-modificeweght champloriship: R Waght (US, holder v H S-mon (Nemibia); Vacami Birthal super-leath-erweight champloniship: N Serain (Mat) v M ROM/INE: Head of the River Race (Mordake to Putney, Thames, 3.45).

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Insh Mesters (Goffs Club, Kill, Co Kildare). ENG: British Grand Pro, meet (Cardiff). TOMORROW Football

OR MARTENS LEAGUE Southern Division: Buckingham Town y St Leonards Stamcroft (3.0). HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE OF RELAND Premier Division: Bray Wanderers v Univer-sty College Dublin (3.15): Home Farm Ever-ton v Bohemians (3.15).

Rugby League

3.0 unless stated SILK CUT PLATE Semi-final: Leigh v Huf SILD COIL PLANE, Semi-mail: Leight V rus (Ingston Rovers: Widnes v Humselt v Wigan (6.35): Halfar v Shefisch! Flort Divisions: Swinton v Worlangton; Writehaven v Hud (3.30). Second Divisions: Barrow v Rochale; Don-cester v Battey (2.0); York v Prescot. Rugby Union (3.0 unless stated)

WEISH NATIONAL LEAGUE First Division Edow Vale v Caerphily (2.30).
CIS UNDER-21 COUNTY CHAMPIONS! Semi-finalic Notis, Lines & Derby v Yorksh

NATIONAL LEAGUE First Division: Blueba

NATIONAL LEASUE First Division: Bluchams while (2.30); Bournies v Beeston (2.30); Bromiley v Indian Gymiki-ara (1.10); Brooklants visas (2.0); City of Ponsmouth v Lews (1.30); Crostya v Oxford Hawks (1.0); Dongastar v Chrol Link (2.0); Egipasion v Sheffield (2.30); Giousester v St. Albans (1.0); Harrisston Magpies v Stourport (2.0); Warrington v Trojens (1.0). WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE Pro Slough v Trojans /2.0).

Rackethall BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Newcastle Eagles v Tharnes Valley Tigers (5.30); Sheffield Sharks v Crystal Palace (5.30); Leopards v Chester Jers (6.30); London Towers v Derby Storm (5.0).

PREMIER LEAGUE: Guidford Flames v Swindon loaLords (6.0); Kingston Hawks v Sloug lets (5.45).

JETS (5.49). MORTHIERN PREMIER: Fife Riyers v Blackburi Handis (6.30): Mumayfield Royals v Peter borough Prates (6.30); Palsley Prates v Whit ley Warmors (6.30).

SPEEDWAY STAR CUP: Eastbourne v Ipsino (3,30): Swindon v Bradford (6.0). Other sports

BOWLS: English Indoor Champion of Char turns (Bernbridge). MOTOR RACING: British F3 Championship (Donngton Park). SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Insh Mas-ters (Goffs Club, Kill, Co Kildare). SQUASE: Interlink Warmen's Open (Windsor).

Q UOTES OF THE WEEK

The police opened fire on us. I have five wounds. Manchester United fan, after the European Cup quarterfinal in Oporto. ...

I saw one woman of about 45 battered by the police. There was blood pouring from her head. Most of the people around me were middle-azed tans - no one was causing any trouble. The not police were completely indiscriminate. Richard Cross, football writer and part of the United fans' contingent.

There is a small group of influential people in the RFU who wish to break up the Five Nations. There are people who think England will never win the World Cup playing in tooth and nail. Fran Cotton, Lions manager and soon to be RFU member.

Fran Cotton's comments dely belief and leave us to query his motives. We have never expressed any wish to withdraw from the Five Nations. John Richardson, RFU

We use every stumbling block as a stepping stone. Sam Hammam, the Wimbledon FC chairman, gets his metaphors in a twist.

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JOHN ROBERTS reports from Key Biscayne

The 16-year-old Venus Williams might have been warned about undesirables in the tennis world, but it comes to something when your match is held up for 20 minutes by a rat in the Centre

What appeared to be just another tiresome Mexican wave turned out to be panic-stricken spectators leaping out of their scats at the Lipton Championships. Old habits die hard, and buzzards still fly above the site, possibly remembering the rubbish dump that was transformed into a magnificent stadium complex by the Buchhoiz

"The rat?" Venus said incredulously after winning her first-round match against Ginger Helgeson Nielsen, 6-1, 4-6, 6-3 on Thursday night. "I thought it was some type of mouse, not a rat. A full-blown rat? Did they put it in a box or something?"

They did, but how is perhaps best explained by the rat-catcher-in-chief, Adam Fractenberg, who doubles as the assistant ticket manager for the tournament, which saw no play because of rain vesterday.

I was in the office when something came over the radio that there was an iguana on the court." Adam said. "I've seen a few of them here when no one was about. I'm something of a reptile lover and I've kept snakes. I thought people might be scared of an iguana, so I said

Γd go and catch it. I was talking a good game, all macho, and the other people in the ticket office called my bluff.

When I went up [to the standl there was a commotion in the corner. The operations people were pulling up plants. I asked them if what they had seen was an iguana or a minotaur. When they told me it was a rat I jumped back - my only connection with rats is that I used to feed them to my snakes.

"We pulled trees out and tried to catch the rat with card-board boxes, but it jetted out from underneath and got away. Spectators parted like the Red Sea as it ran down the isles to another corner of the stadium.
"Then out of nowhere, a guy

I had never seen before came up with a rat trap. I asked him what he was doing with it, and he just shrugged. I caught the rat with a pair of pliers and put it in the trap. I had it in my hand, and everybody was clapping. People have been saying it was a big rat. Well, I'm from New York, and I would describe it as average. I think the guy who owns the rat trap took it away. I'm sure it was set free somewhere away from the tournament site. I guess that's the magic of Key Biscayne."

There has not been so much fuss about a critter at a tennis tournament since a raccoon dropped from an elevator ceiling at the US Open and dashed about the Stadium Court at New York's Flushing Meadow. In Miami, however, one particular tale of a rat has run and room. Their No 27, Scott Mel-run and has become part of the lanby, gave it a slap-shot, and time the Panthers scored - I've



Venus Williams plays a backhand during her first-round victory over Ginger Helgeson Nielsen

lore of the Panthers ice hock-

"Last year," recalled Fractenberg, whose links with local sports events include working for the Panthers, "there was an incident in a pre-season bockey game. They had a little rat problem, being downtown. A rat got into the Panthers' locker

that was the end of that prob-

"Later on that evening, Mellanby went on to score two goals. Word got around about the rat, so it was decided Mellamby had scored a rat-trick. Next day, slowly at first, people came in and threw little plastic rats on the ice. This caught on.

tossed a rat or two in my day and soon the team was marketing rat T-shirts and plastic rats in the numbers of the fans'

favourite players. By the time the Stanley Cup play-offs came round, more than a thousand rats were thrown on the ice in a game the Avalanche. Their goalie, Patrick Photograph: Alisport

Greg Rusedski, the British No 2, has had a scan on his injured wrist and and been advised to rest for seven days. He is still hopeful of playing in the Davis Cup tie against Zimbabwe at Crystal Palace on 4-6 April. Britain's captain, David Lloyd. has dropped Mark Petchey from his original squad of five, but has the option of restoring the Essex player if Rusedski is unfit.

Jets' guard

suspended

If the Leopards needed any help

securing their first Budweiser League championship in just

their third season, it came with

vesterday's announcement that

Chester Jets' guard, Russ Saun-

The Leopards will take the ti-

tle if they win their last four

Basketbali

RICHARD TAYLOR

lowing a drugs test.

Struggling **Bristol short** of forwards

Rugby Union CHRIS HEWEIT

It is Last Chance Saloon time for the borderline Lions as Fran Cotton and his fellow seectors cast a final eye over conenders for the three-Test trip to South Africa. There will be any number of hard luck stories when the final 35 names are announced on Tuesday week but, if you want real misfortune, look no further than the Memorial Ground in Bristol

When the stroggling West Countrymen face Sale in one of today's three surviving Courage League games - the rest fell vic-tim to the demands of the World Cup Sevens - Paul Hull will be sitting on the replace-ments' bench. Remember him? The most exciting running fullback in Britain?

As recently as the summer of 1994, he was wearing an England shirt and galloping around the high veld of the Transvaal like a thoroughbred with his Test performances against the Springboks bordering on the world-class.

Now, nothing Bristol, the club he captained last season, have relegated him in favour of a university student, Josh Lewsey. Martin Corry, the current captain, describes Lewsey as an "exciting talent who just loves to run with the ball". Holl was like

that too, once upon a time. His decline can be traced to the moment Jack Rowell replaced him with Mike Catt for England's 1995 Five Nations match with Ireland. Hull had done nothing wrong, apart from injure himself during a warmup international with Canada, but the die was cast. Rowell also omitted him from his World Cup party later that year and it was enough to wreck what remained of his confidence.

Fighting to avoid the ig-nominy of participation in the end-of-season play-offs, Bristol must face Sale without three injured international forwards. Mark Regan, Simon Shaw and David Corkery are all sidelined by ailments picked up during the Five Nations, so Richie Collins, the former Wales flanker, makes his league debut while Phil Adams and Barry McComeil get a run at lock and

hooker respectively.
Sale, challenging hard for a
place in next year's Heineken Cup, have problems of their own because of injuries to Simon Mannix, Phil Winstanley, Dave Baldwin and Dylan O Grady. "I'm not sure how effective we are in terms of strength in depth," said John Mitchell, their player-coach yesterday. "But

this is a must-win game for us. Harlequins give Paul Challi-nor an outing at full-back against West Hartlepool at The Stoop while Wasps, who face Orrell at Sudbury, welcome back their captain, Lawrence Dallaglio, following a bout of tonsillitis.

In Wales, Cardiff take on South Wales Police in a Swaled Cup quarter-final that is fast being overshadowed by the principality's latest chib versus country rumpus. Terry Holmes, the Cardiff coach, reacted furiously to news that his captain, Hemi Taylor, had suffered a severe hamstring injury during weight training with the national squad. These players are athletes, not machines," Holmes said. "If we could get enough money together. I would like to see us buy our internationals out of their Welsh Rugby Union contracts.

At least Holmes has been spared the problems of his ri-vals. "We've been badly disrupted by police shift work but I just have to accept it," said the underdogs' coach, Steve Davies

Extra incentive for Salford's ex-Saints

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

participants.

If a Challenge Cup semi-final is always a landmark in a player's career, then this afternoon's between St Helens and Salford is extra special for several of its

Saltord have three players who began their careers at part to play at Wigan today.

It took a scrap on a football

pitch to persuade Manches-

ter's Michael Brodie that he had

a future as a professional fight-

er - which has been confirmed

in an 18-fight winning sequence

that has moulded Brodie into one of the best young prospects

His 19th bout should give a sig-nificant indication of Brodie's cal-

calculated to give Andy Gregory's side the authority in the forwards that it was going to need in Super League, while Paul Forber, another well into his 30s, rightly claims to be playing the best rugby of his life.

Of the trio, it is the contribution of the scrum-half, Mark Lee, who is often underestimated. He came to the Saints and all have an important handful of first-team appearances at Saints, was switched be-Andy Platt, recovered from hind the scrum in an emergency a hamstring injury, was a close- and has thrived on his new season signing via Auckland. role ever since.

Neil Swain, for the vacant British

crown at the Wythenshawe Fo-

The 8st 10th match will pro-

vide an interesting contrast in

one of the domestic matches of

the year. Brodie's fast, power-

ful hands against the sharp-hit-

both Manchester United and

City boys' teams until his sport-

Brodie, 22, played football for

ting southpaw Swain.

rum tonight

best move I ever made," Lee said. "It's going to take a good side to beat Saints, but I don't

That view is hard to argue against, especially with John Cartwight and David Hulme fit to take their places in a fullstrength side. Yet St Helens are Willows as a hooker with just a deservedly favourites to go back had not come in at the last Hunslet at Naughton Park, they won last April.

Their coach, Shaun McRae,

"Coming to Salford is the Bobbie Goulding, which gives him the luxury of starting with the influential Derek McVey on the bench after missing two matches with a cracked bone in

The player who keeps him out of the starting line-up is Chris Morley, who grew up on Salford's terraces and would ned for them it Samt to Wembley and retain the Cup minute with a more tempting offer.

"I only live two minutes from also has a full squad to pick the ground and still go to watch from apart from the suspended them when I can, because I've Leigh and their visitors, Hull KR.

got a lot of mates down there,' he said.

Halifax's new coach, John Pendiebury, has named an unchanged team for the visit of Sheffield Eagles tomorrow, while Wigan should have Jason Robinson back in action for the

trip to Castleford. Widnes will have a full bouse which is in the throes of rede velopment. The two other sides within a match of playing in the Wembley curtain-raiser are

games, beginning with tomorrow's visit by Chester to the London Arena. Chester, like their fellow contenders Birmingham Bullets, Sheffield Sharks and the defending Brodie's brawl points the way to Swain's crown champions London Towers, can only stand and watch if Leopards keep winning. super-bantamweight champion, on-field altercation. "He was a Swain's ribs. That mode of at- ka's Tyler Hughes in his second

Saunders, the League's alltime leading scorer, has been suspended on full pay by the Jets following a report by the Sports Council that a prohibited subthat record holding up against stance was found in a sample given by the player during a random drug test.

The visit of Chester poses one of only two traps for the Leopards, the other coming with their visit to Birmingham next Saturday. Leopards' last two games

RAF warm to the Friendship factor

BILL COLWILL

The Signaal Inter-Services Championship at Portsmouth ended yesterday in a surprise 2-1 defeat of the Army by the Royal Navy after a tense final game. The Navy's eighth-minute lead from Mark McLintock was short-lived as James Boyce equalised six minutes later. The winning goal came from Paul Priendship five minutes into

the second half. The RAF, by virtue of their vins earlier in the week over to Clifton today, nor at Slough. both teams, regained the "Indian Army" Trophy they last won in 1995. The Army bear the the Navy 5-2 to win the

women's title. Slough, if they are to achieve their ambition of a fifth women's National League title. will have to be at their best over the weekend, hoping their firstare at home to Detby Storm and the bottom chib, Hernel Royals. choice goalkeeper, Sue Knight, will be available for their cru-

cial games against Sutton Coldfield today and their rearranged me tomortow against trojans Lynnette Smith stands by to deputise. Slough trail Ipswich by four points but have a game in hand. Assuming Slough win their two games this weeken the title is likely to be decided when the two teams meet the

Saturday after Easter. Trojans' concern is at the other end of the table. The Southampton club have had a disappointing season and have not won since October. They are unlikely to get much relief away

Hightown, the champions who have lost all their League games since beating Trojans in November, will again be without Maggie Souyave, the England coach, and could well struggle at home to Doncaster, who beat them 8-2 in their earlier fixture.

SIGNAAL INTER-SERVICES TOURNAMENT Portsmouth): RN 2 Amy 1 (RNF champions). Under-22: RN 3 Amy 2 (RN champions). Vel-erass: RN 4 Amy 2. (RNF champions). Women: RN 2 Amy 5. (Amy champions).

Redgrave and Pinsent pair up

Rowing

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3.

HUGH MATHESON Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent will race together this

since since winning Britain's only Olympic gold in Atlanta last Summer. The pair will lead off in the Leander crew in the Head of the River Race on London's Tideway, starting at 3,30pm, Leander will be chased off by University of London, with Ru-

afternoon for the first time

pert Obholzer in the No 6 seat. Leander oarsmen, however, still have a dominance in the British men's Olympic squad and have been practising together in the eight since the squad returned from a spring training camp on the 1992 Olympic course, near

Barcelona. The Leander crew will be stroked by James Cracknell, with Rory Morrison, a dark team, based in Philadelphia, is blue and pink journeyman who emerged over the winter as a serious contender for the single sculls. Richard Hamilton and Ben Hunt Davis, who both rowed in the Olympic cieht last year, will hope to blend well enough with Pinsent and Redgrave to be considered for the new coxless four, which the in recent years, but, with radigolden pair have said they will cal changes in preparation, may turn to for at least this season. be able to reverse the trend.

Redgrave's oath to quit row-ing, which was uttered in the immediate exhaustion after his fourth Olmpic victory, was later tempered to a return to rowing, provided he could have a rest from the pressure. The four is seen as the most likely vehicle for his talents and, with several of the obvious choices busy elsewhere, Jürgen Gröbler, the Leander and British men's squad coach, will be looking at

his eight for guidance. Imperial College, despite losing to the Cambridge Boat Race crew last weekend, has a strong group and much Tideway experience. Starting third, they should stay if they can hold off the challenge of Notts County and London Rowing Club, setting out immediately behind.

In spite of its strong tradition of continental crews, this is the first Head Race to have a American entry. The Schuykill Navy a veteran crew, with Sean Drea. the World single sculls silver

medallist, and Chris Blackwall. the 1967 Oxford Blue, on board. The Oxford and Cambridge women's and lightweight crews will race their Boat races at Henley tomorrow. The Dark Blue crews have not done well

don't you start boxing?' So I had a go and found that I liked it styles and could turn out to be better than football. "Swain's a good, strong fight-

er. I've looked at a tape of him. but I'll beat him. I think I'll be too strong and stop him in the later rounds.

boxer and I beat him up,"

Brodie says. "He said to me

you've got the aggression why

er, and his left hook should

Brodie is a fair body punch-

ibre against the Commonwealth ing direction diverted after his spend a lot of time targeting from Newbridge faces Nebras-

tack could be the key to Brodie's success, but the Pontypridd-born Swain, 25, will take some cutting down. The indications are that Brodie will claim the title by a

decision, or on a late stoppage. Wales should have least one winning southpaw on the Frank Warren promotion, the former undefeated British super-middleweight champion Joe Calzaghe. The knock-out specialist

Ten of Hughes' fights have heen staged in the comfort of his home state, and against littie-known opposition. Calzaghe, though, has made

Calzaghe's power.

appearance under the Warren

banner and, although the

American is unbeaten in 11

fights, it is difficult to imagine

such short work of his foes to date 15 of his 20 straight wins have come inside two rounds.

BANGOR

HYPERION 2.10 Talathath 2.45 Strike-A-Pose 3.15 General Pershing 3.50 Around The Gale 4.25 Campeche Bay 4.55 Indian Quest 5.25 Shropshire Gale

GOENG: Good (Good to Firm in back straight on hurdles course). Left-hand, undulating course, run-in 325yds.

Left-hand, undulating course, run-in 325yds.

Course is 4m SE of Wreshum near junction of A225 and B3060,

ADMISSION: Paddock 59, Course 54 CAR PARE: Free. SIS RACING

BLINEERED FIRST TIME: None. WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Winn's Pride (4.55) won

al Unoveter on Saturday.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Muletadl (2.10) & Eagle Duncer (3.25)
sero 216 miles by Larly Herries from Augmenug Park, W Sussex. 2.10 STAN CLARKE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m 1f

43 EL CRIMIN SENGR (EA) of microruse : 4701 FLORID (USA) (8) C Brooks 6 11 2 735-03 POT BLACKERD (21) R Lee 8 10 11 202 RIBRIESCASH (12) P Bower 4 10 8. TASKEE MS P August 4 10 3

– 15 declared – BETTIME: 7-4 Florid, 4-1 Talathath, 11-2 Mointad, 6-1 Vadiswys, 10-1 El Crank Senor, Kinnescank, 16-1 Aktroy Pilot, 26-1 Jessolle, 25-1 others

2.45 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £3,000 added 2m 1f EDENAL, CITY (16) (0) G Richards 6 11 10 _____ 8 Burns 6 1 NEVER SO BLUE (30) F Bradey 6 11 8 _____ R Williamson (3) RED MARCH HARE (172) J Haynes 6 10 11 C McConnack (5) 002002 NOBELT BOAT (3) W Clay 6 10 10 515' CLASSIC ACCOUNT (1834] J. Liye 9 10 9 ... C. Ellost FR6-05 QUIDDITY (17) J. Maclee 6 10 8 ... E. Hondo 2-05330 STRING-A-POSE (87) B. Llewshyn 7 10 7 ... S. L. 42-0000 BUD'S BET (38) Mrs. J. Ceza 9 10 7 ... M. Newton 0 0F0-100 NORD LYS (37) (b) 3 Uswalyn 6 10 3 ... Michael Bren 1 200005 STALL HERE (7) P Bowen 4 10 1 ... L. Cotombus 6 2 0-F0050 JARROW (38) Mrs. A Nazgiton 6 10 0 ... G. F. R. 3 0050-05 RISABETIM (38) Gr. Mely 7 10 0 ... J. Trogg 1 GP0P0-0 BIT OF ROUGH (17) W (2sy 7 10 0 ... D. J. Keveten 4 004 PRSCAL (851 452 F Mazelo 7 10 0 ... D. J. Keveten _____L Commiss (5) 8

Michaum weight: 10st. The handicap weights: Kismedin 9st 13th, BR Of Rough Sex Sab. Regal Jest Sex Tab. A Boxago Too Far Sex Gab. BETTING 4-1 Right Boot, 5-1 Paince Of Gold, 13-2 Eternal City, 7-1 Sta Here, S-1 States-A-Pose, 10-1 Classic Account, 12-1 Red March Revs, 14-1

3.15 ALTHREY WOODHOUSE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 2m 4f 110yds AUG/031 GENERAL PERSHING (28) (C) (D) D Nicholson 11 12 0

33/0215 ANDERNATI (290) (CO) I Made: 10 11 1 W Mersion 2-22320 SOUTHWATTON (10) G Belong 7 10 13 Brand Speet V 612P-01 FRECREEY (21) G Rechards 11 10 10 R Do P-P0632 DOLARDS (12) (0) T Calonell 10 10 0 Michael Bres

Materium weight 10st. True heridicap weight Dollars 8st 9th. BETTRAR 7-4 Priciary, 100-30 Southempton, 7-2 Combrian Challe General Persbing, 14-1 Carolinov, 18-1 Andermati, 20-1 Dollos 3.50 MLES MACADAM NOVICE CHASE (CLASS 5 6 6) 51-1212 AROUND THE GALE (28) (C) (8F) D Gandolfo 5 12 0 11:32-21 CHOPWELL CURTURES (11:5) TESSENTY 7 11 11 ... Where 24:122P MONYMORS (7) Mr. S Strob 8 11 11 ... Richard Genet. (11:21P MR. REVERSIO BERT (9) G Batching 9 11 11 ... B CRISSON F FROMYMORS MALLEY (25) P Metholon 8 11 5 ... R. Johnson 00 GREZZLY BEAK (21) R Sunnig 7 11 5 ... S Wysne 1P-320 MYSTE (SLE [14] N Gession 7 11 5 ... W Marmiton 0000001 BESINTS GRE, (12) R Brotherno 7 11 0 ... J Eley FOOLOGY FOLKER MYSTER (12) R BROTHER 7 11 0 ... D Wilstein FOLKER MYSTER (12) R BROTHER 7 11 0 ... D Wilstein FOLKER MYSTER (13) R LOS R LO

4.25 NORTH WEST RACING MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 4f 110yds SF42UF CHAPECHE BAY (16) G Balding 8 11 7 B Day 4/827-36 CRAPE HEL (61) F Hotes 7 11 7 Min 245-PR3 DANDLE HIM (22) A Coroll 9 11 7 9 P DEE HIGHS (24) 6 Referres 8 11 2 A Dobbin
10 00P LARY ROSERIES (46); R Proc 7 11 2 T Moths
11 25 493 PEANL BYEE (25); D Minchen 8 11 2 R Toleron
11 declared BETTING: 8-11 Compacts Bay, 5-1 Come FM, 7-4 Pand Epon, 8-1 Little
Notice, 10-1 Dandle Imp, 12-1 Dae Light, 16-1 Fort Zeichnun, 32-1 others

4.55 LIGHTWOOD GREEN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 3m 210-033 SELATAN (14) (15) D Gambillo 5 12 0_

8-1 Pressis, 20-1 Fist Top, 12-1 Casalo's Boy, Indian Quest, 14-1 Rown, Whitehouset, 16-1 Withe Willow, 20-1 Doolar, 25-1 Far Ser

5.25 BANGOR-ON-DEE MAIDEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m 1f CALESTIAN GROUNDS 5.11-10...R Berns (7) MICHIGAN BLUE W Jerie 5 11 10 ROCKY SALBOA Mass P White 5 11 10 Bay SHROP SHREE GALE (20) S BROKKERN 6 11 10.0 Bu

SEE MORE ANGELS (600) A farmer 5 11 5 ... E Hastonst (3) GC CANDOUS (054) A Romel 4 11 2 ... D J Kernsongt (20) S Ente 4 11 2 ... D J Kernsongt (20) S Ente 4 11 2 ... D J Kernsongt (20) N T Egen (7) NAZZELSON A BURG 4 420 11 ... N T Egen (7) PERMYSERGE (1) Face 4 30 11 ... S Makrose (7) PERMYSERGE (1) Face 4 30 11 ... S Makrose (7) PERMYSERGE (1) Face 4 30 11 ... S Fine 4 CO. PERMISSION J. LEWIS 430 35.

-18 deciseed -Aire Gale, 7-1 Arctic Risk, 9-2 Debtots 81, 11-2 The-Lightmorier, 6-1 Englis Descer, 8-1 Galestus, 14-1 Disky Dury, Go Cata 20-1 Mazzakon, Penninya, 25-1 others.

RACING RESULTS

DONCASTER

1.30: 1. MCKERIN (M Ferror) 6-1; 2. Lord Smith 7-4 fav. 3. Pink Ticket 9-1, 9 ran. Hd. 1% (2 Pothwell, Warthill Tote: 58.40: £1.70, £1.10, £2.70, Dual Forecast £7.90 Computer Straight Forecast £16.43, That

2.06: 1. ONEFOURSEVEN IT Wilens 9-2; 2 Noufart 11-2, 3, Master Foodbroker 8-1, 10 ran, 21-4 for Mage Compression, 1%, 8, UL 576, 17-58; Teter 55.40, £1.80, £1.60, £2.20, DF: £10.80, CSF: £26.06, Treast: TO: £22,00. 2.35: 1 NRA: R Lappe; 12-1; 2. Sefio 33-1; 3. Sea-Deer 6-1 ft-far, 4. So Intra-pid 12-1: 22 rea. 6-1 ft-far Mansan 21, nk. 0 L Eye. Thark. Total: £13.70: £3.00, £28.90. £1.70. £3.30. Duai Forecast:

£385,50, CSF: £346,78 Tricast £2,435,13. Trio. £1,816,80

3.10: 1. ARTIFIA DANE (M Roberts) 10:1; 2. Shinerdia 8-1 lav. 3. Sharp Shaffle 10-1; 4. Sendmoor Chambray 14-1, 23 cm. 7s, 10. M Heaton-Elis. Wroughton). Total 112:70. 23:90. 12:60, 62:20, 64:50, DF: 537:00 CSF: 671.78. Treast: 6786.48. Trie:

bucca 11-1; 3, Heritage 8-13 fav. 8 ras. 4, 2/.. (8 Hills, Lambourn). Tote: £3.40; £1.10, £1.70, £1.10. DF: £13.80. CSF: 4.10: 1. ZARETSIN (M Roberts) 7-2; 2. Tit-ta Rufflo 5-2 fav. 3. Honourable 12-1. 8 an. 11. 14. IC Britan, Neumarkett, Total: £5.40; £1.50, £1.30, £2.70, DF: £9.70, CSF;

112 at. Jackpot: Not won. Pool of £8,707.00 car-ned forward to Donesster today. Placepot: £135.90. Quadpot: £16.20. Place 6: £59.80. Place 5: £29.99.

NEWBLIRY 1.50: 1 READY MONEY CREEK U Os-

130: L russy) mines tencen o os-borne) 13-2; 2. Absolutly Equinaries 11-4 las: 3. Memassis 7-2: 14 ran. 1/6, ½, (0 Sterwood, Upper Lambourn). Tota: £4.60; £1.30, £1.40, £1.90. Dual Forecast: £6,70. Computer Straight Forecast: £18.85. Tho: co. co.

2.25: 1. LINTON ROCKS (8 Powel) 6-5 2.25: 1 LINTON ROCKS (8 Powell 6-5 fax; 2. Hatcham Boy 11-8: 3. Ambor Velley 17-2. 5 ran. 2, 2%. (7 Thorson Jones, Upper Lambourn). Your 52.20; 51.30, £1.20. Dual Forecast: £2.20. Computer Straight Forecast: £2.79, 2.55: 1. QUINU EAGLE (Lame Earls) 8-1; 2. Lively Encounter 15-8 fax; 3. Fordes Lad 9-1.19 ran. 2, bd. (M Ppa, Weinigson), Tober 58.10; £2.10, £1.40, £3.00. Dual Forecast: £12.50. Computer Straight Encounter 590 06.

3.25: 1. POX POINTER (Mr.R Thorses) 7-4tar; 2. Archevenan 100-30; 3. Rywing Cuplet 2-1. 7 ran, 18, 21. Dust. Evens, Nerbertu. Tota: £2.50; £1.40, £1.50. Dust. Forecast £5.40, Computer Straight Process: £7.16.

57.16. 4.00: 1. TERAO (T / Murphy) 9-4; 2. Chango The Act 9-2; 3. High Albitude 2-1 law 5 ran. 2%, 12. (M Pipe, Westington). Tobe: 12.90; 51.60, 52.40. Dual Forecast: 56.70. Computer Straight Forecast: £11.33, NR: Mag-12' Boston, 4.35: 1. RED RAJA (I Osborne) 2-1; 2. Feb.

ly Sharp 13-8 fav; 3. Province 10-1. 4 ran. 3½, 16. (P Michel, Newmarket), Toto: £2.80 Dual Forecast £1.80. Computer Straight Fore-Placepot: £17.00, Quadpot: £14.50. Place 6: £28.75. Place 5: £18.20.

KELSO 1.40: 1. 50N OF ARSHAR (U.Supplet 5-4 a; 2. Bold Charels 5-1; 3. Cleath Of Swords 5-1. 12 par., 22, 1/4. [Mrs A.Swirtserio, Total 11.70: £1.10, £2.00, Dual Forecast; £10.50.

Computer Straight Forecast: £6.33. This: 2.15. 1. AMERICAN HERO (B Storey) 9-1; 2. Wr Knittett 2-1; 3. Rent Yould 7-6 fav. 3 ren. 5; 2. (A Alen). Tota: £6.40; £1.30, £1.80, £1.80. OF: £20.90, Computer Spriight

Forecast: £23.40.
2.45: 1. MONNAME FORTE U Restort 7-1:

2.46: 2. MUNIMAR FORTE () Restort 7.1: 2. Inglands an 4.1 for; 3. Our Robert 10.1: 9 ran. ½, 5. () Adamy, Toba: 27.06; 22.00, 61.80, 53.00, IP-526.20, CSF: 531.44, Th. CSS: 525.27, Thir 5310.50, AFC Gorge Public Alleria Instantial Constructions of Construction (CSS). E. After a summer's regary, clackings unplemed.
2.16: 1. SON OF SISS (P Num) 2-1 (i-far.
2. Cogal Lano 4-1; 3. Tighter Budget 12-1.

5 mm. 2-1. ji-tav Whest Fettle (4th). 1, 13. (Mrs M Reveloy): Totar £2.20; £1.10, £2.10. DF: £5.70, CSF: £9.25. 3.50; 1. AGTIME (Mr. M. Brachume) 1.2 fax; 2. Royal Jester 3.1; 2. Orange Region 1.1; 2. 5 rist. 7, 19, U Hughes). Tota: E1.50; E1.10; E1.10; DF: £1.60; Computer Straight Foreigns: E9.50. Forecast: £2.50.

Forecast F2.50.
4.20: 1. CASH 80% (N Smith) 24-1: 2.
Hajor Harris 12-1; 3. No Giornicks 9-2.
15 rad. 9-5 far Derantes. 19. 3. (T Card).
Total £18.90; £2.20, £2.90, £0.00. DF.
£47.50. CSF. £152.49. Tot. £269.40.
4.50: 1.MSSTER ROSS (A Dobbert) 7-4 far.
2. Leaf Dear Councilius 8-1: 2. demanses 7-1. 4.50°2. MISSIER MOSS (A DODORU 7-4 EW, 2. last One Question 8-1; 3. Grossman 7-2. 24 mai. 4. 6. (t ii loftwon), Totac 52 To; 62:40, 82200, 82.40. DF, £14.90. CSF: £11.07, Mo; £27,40. 5000L £28.10. 00ad

Place 6: £18.36. Place St £15.52.

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the Flat season is not the race it the prize for success is a deposit both rails, and another in the was, should take half an hour to in the betting bank which middle, so one useful filter is destitutioning the form for the 1997 should last until the Craven nied to us.

Study the form and weights, memories, as backer worthy of the description could describe the description could be described to the described to the described to the described to the description could be described to the description could deny that though, is that the draw seems ble witners can be switly re-

NEWBURY .. 1.15: Senor & Retrotti is best at distances short of this three miles. VALIANT WARRIOR has also done most of his racing over 21/2 miles, but is more likely to be staying on at the finish today.

1.45: Kadasıraf will ensure a strong gallop, which will said Hamilton 1.45: Kadastrat will castre a strong gallop, which will said Hamilton
3.40: NEW CENTURY lighting fit in peak form but the concession of after winning a lim if 79 yes handicap at Wolverhampton before finfavour of Sirrell Cristinus's runner.
Wellzer in a lim 10 yes contest at the strong to the said contest at the said cont This is more his track than Sendown where he was fifth last time.

their form on easier ground.

3.00: DANETIME, a highly cred to de and cin outsay Sheer Danzie, itable one-length runner up to Crimson Tide in the Houghton 445-ASTRAC, who won listed Stakes over 77 at Newmarket last races here and at Estables. October, should make a smart three-year-old this year. Critisievar

Many and varied are the insults which have been hurled at the Lincoln in recent years, not least by panters who feel they have been suckered once again by a race which has not produced at morning, many puniters will need with that but with the field available this morning, many puniters will need with the first big handicap of the Lincoln is demandered that the first big handicap of is the probable outcome but

feel that the first big handicap of is the probable discome - but

HYPERION'S

Gordi in last year's Queen's Vase at Royal Ascot and eath to Shan-

role in the result may have anywhere. There are also obvi-much to do with that but with our pacesetters drawn close to RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Sabot

Horse

Passion For Life

Royal Appletose Venture Capitalist

Eesy Daller

Warning Time

King Of Peru

(Doncaster 3.40) NB: Sheer Danzig (Doncaster 4:15)

today's feature race is a fasci unlikely to play a significant part duced to little more than half nating contest. In the outcome. The Spring Mile a dozen improving horses who

which were ence a seame of the tance yesterday produced a Lincoln may have gone—the winner from stall six who came as Kuala Lipis and New Eenfact that the draw can play such a crucial but unpredictable would clearly have won from candidates, while Alamein and Tumbleweed Ridge, Sky Dome and Hawksley Hill must also be respected, albeit simply be-cause of the confidence they ap-

> dentally, is also carrying some-thing far more significant, since he is the second leg of a double placed by Brism Meehan, his trainer, which started with Mr Mulligan's 20-1 success in the Gold Cup. The name which stands out, though, is NEW CENTURY (nap 3.40), who can boast every attribute you could wish for in a potential Lincoln

erously weighted on his best form and has a liking for big fields, as his victory in last season's Thirsk Hunt Cup demonstrated. Add the fact that David Nicholls, his trainer, has saddled several major handicap win-ners in his short career, and his pear to be carrying into the sace.
Tumbleweed Ridge, incichance is obvious, even if today's race is not the culmination of

حكدًا من الأصل

a long, carefully-crafted plan.
"He was going to run over hurdles," Nicholls said yesterday, which he did at Wetherby when he finished third, and the prize-money for that was so poor that I persuaded the owner to run him on the all-weather at Wolverhampton. He won that and he didn't get a penalty, so he's 7lb better in for the Lincoln than he would be if he

New Century to dawn for Nicholls good form and he'll give a good account of himself."

Today could be one which Nicholls will long remember, since his Venture Capitalist, to be ridden like New Century by Alex Greaves, his wife, will go to post with a leading chance in the Cammidge Trophy, a List-ed event. Here, though, it may pay to side with another of the brightest prospects in the new generation of trainers, Gay Kelleway, who saddles the re-

juvenated Astrac (4.45). The search for other winners is best directed towards Newbury, where Lacia Forte (2.15) must go close in the valuable mares' handicap hurdle, and Blair Castle (1.45) also goes to post with every chance.

| Worthington Lincoln Handicap - Doncaster 3.40 | | | | | |
|---|--------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|--|
| | | | Ladbrokes | Tota | |
| Horse | Coral | WANGERN HIS | | | |
| Alminein | 7-1 | | 10-1 | B:1 | |
| Hankeley HBL | 10-1 | 8-1 | <u></u> | 10-1 | |
| Kuala Lipis | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | <u> 10-1</u> | |
| New Century | _10-1 | | 10-1 | <u>91</u> | |
| Sky Dome | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | <u>10-1</u>] | |
| Turablewood Ridge | 10-1 | 9.1 | 9-1 | <u> 10-1</u> | |
| Grand Musica | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 12-1 | |
| Royleg Minstrel | 14-1 | 12-1 | 12-1 | 12-1 | |
| Russian Music | 14-1 | 16-1 | 16-1 | 12:1 | |
| Recidorce | 20-1 | 16-1 | 14-1 | <u> 20-1</u> | |
| Cartourton | 25-1 | 20-1 | 25-1 | 25 <u>·1</u> | |
| Kaia Sunrice | 14-1 | 25-1 | 1 <u>6-1</u> | <u> 25-1</u> | |
| Sabot | 20-1 | 25-1 | 18-1 | <u>16-1</u> | |
| Stone Ridge | 25-1 | 25-1 | 16-1 | 20-1 | |
| Whitzle Rock | 25-1 | 20-1 | 20-1 | <u>25-1</u> | |
| Barosea Valley | 33-1 | 33-1 | 33-1 | 33 <u>-1</u> | |
| Defined Feature | 25-1 | 25-1 | 33-1 | <u> 25-1</u> | |
| Pater Noster | 25-1 | 33-1_ | 33-1 | <u>25-1</u> | |
| Hazard A Guess | 33-1 | 40-1 | 33-1 | <u>33:1</u> | |
| Hunters Of Brora | 33-1 | 25-1 | 40-1 | <u>33-1</u> | |
| Nouvest | 33-1 | 25-1 | 40-1 | 33:1 | |
| lamus | 40-1 | 50-1 | 40-1 | 33-1 | |
| La Petite Fuece | 40-1 | 50-1 | 50-1 | 50-1 | |
| Paisey Street Cirl | 40-1 | 50-1 | 50-1 | 3 <u>3-1</u> | |
| | uniter the C | odds, places 1, | 2, 3, 4 | | |

445 ASTRAC who won listed races here and at 5 wylest autenm, look a good each way bet at 6 1 with Coral and Ladbrokes. Passion For Life may be the danger. may pose most problems. 2.00 Captain Brady 2.30 Nomore Mr Niceguy 3.00 Danetime 3.40 New Contrary, GOING: Good to Figure 1985 and counter confide. STALLS: Straight - stands said; round counter confide. DRAW ADVANTAGES: Less numbers may be best in this fields on front course. B Left-hard, poss-chapsed course with talle straight. Course is case of with oil the A538 (Mill Lets 3.8 C). But fifth front Denicator Central station. ADMANSSING, Clab 156 (Granifestand 210. 7 andly Englished 23 (under 16s free all enclosures). CLAR PARES: Prec.

IN LEADING TRANSESS WITH MINDSMIN: I Coulem - 20 winners from 130 runners on a ratio of 22.5% parties return to a 12 level rate of 453.581, it likes - 25 winners, 120 runners, 17.692-42.5847.092-42.5847.092-42.584.093 returners, 10.1%, 675.08.

IN LEADING PRESENTED Destroid - 26 winners, 10.1%, 675.08.

IN LEADING PRESENTED DESTROID - 26 winners, 10.1%, 675.08.

IN LEADING PRESENTED TO COUNTY - 26 winners, 10.1%, 675.08.

IN LEADING PRESENTED TO COUNTY - 26 winners, 10.1%, 675.08.

IN LEADING PRESENTED THE CAPTURE CAPTURE (2.30) was Winners, 10.45.27.2%, 4619.34; Part Eddery - 25 winners, 10.2%, 68.75.

BLIVERIED PREST TAILE CAPTURE (3.40).

WINNERS IN LEST SEVEN PARTS, Transmissed (2.30) was Winners and Samples, LONG DESTANCE MUNICIPAL Review Municipal (3.40). Major Chinage (4.5) & Astron. (4.45) sent 241 miles by Mise Gay Kalleway from Wintcombe, Dorsel, "La Petite Pinner (4.45) sent 241 miles by Mise Gay Kalleway from Wintcombe, Dorsel, "La Petite Pinner (3.40) and 241 miles by Mise Cay Wintcombe, Dorsel, "La Petite Pinner (3.40) and 241 miles by Mise Cay Wintcombe, Dorsel, "La Petite Pinner (3.40) and 241 miles by Mise Cay Wintcombe, Dorsel, "La Petite Pinner (3.40) and 241 miles by Mise Cay Wintcombe, Dorsel, "La Petite Pinner (3.40) and 241 miles by Mise Cay Wintcombe, Dorsel, "La Petite Pinner (3.40) and 241 miles by Mise Cay Wintcombe, Dorsel, "La Petite Pinner (3.40) and 241 miles by Mise Cay Wintcombe, Dorsel, "La Petite Pinner (3.40) and 241 miles by Mise Cay Wintcombe, Dorsel, "La Petite Pinner (3.40) and (3.40) a

(1) 40) seat 241 males by B O Scalivan from Whatcounter Dorses 2.00 GREY FROM STATE OF STATES (CLASS D) 54,350

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| | Charles Same | | D . | | | | 100 |
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| | BANKERS PARTIES | | water . | حبت ب | | - | - T |
| | GROSEL GARL (D Materie) | PP Pare 7 E | 2: | | نيبيست | <u></u> | 7£ 882 |
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| 10-1 Noble Seja, Jan Dalle, 22-1 Olist Spl. 16-1 Margaretta Garber, 20-1 olists 1998: Kingsinger 2 8 6-7 Quain 9-2 M. Crannoni 1,7 cm | |
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| AND INCOME. 2 OF WALL PARTY IN SEC. IN SECOND ARTISTS AND | |
| 2.30 MARCH HANDICAP (CLASS II) E5,800 and to st | A463 31 |
| 1 25400 Million 10 General Richards 97 | ا (5 شعرا |
| 2 24211-1: EPPERENCIAL (RM.10) (Ing Gott Boom Syndrolo (2): R Planner 9 5 | Cochrane |
| C 43053 BRINDAM AND | |
| 2 25014-0 Louist Benefices (LT) (C) (D) (Per Garan Richas P Series 2 2 331-432 HOMENES (ECHIEF (CD) (D) (No. Charl P McPrint E (Both 9 2 | |
| D 224 625 MATERIAL CONTROL OF STATE OF | ، مستحدث من |
| 9 (2110) DOUBLE COLD (182) EA (ALTHOS Edisons) S Morban S 13 | |
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| 14 020 PRILEDER CLUB P 12500 Ms M Recting 83 15 07-5301 LA SOLGE VEN TEST (IV) Sherher Woods 1 TD Saron 8 5 Resident 1 | y last (7) |
| 17 0626 SNARE TREMETON (A.C.) NOTICE & PASS CO. | وجد بند |
| 17 Uddir annual Control of the Contr | |
| 117.3 | |

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| 8 0040 - MONEO PARK (134) (Mrs. H. M. Carr) Nas. J. Romsden 8 6 Fortum 5 |
| 9 432050 PACK FLUSH (152) (Densk A Smith) B Rothwell B 4 |
| O OSS- BOLLIN TIGRET (1997) (Sir Neil Westbrook) T Easterty 8.3 |
| 1 364206 RUM LAD (166) (8 Stein) J Quinn 8 3 J J Quinn 7 2 Gales 7 2 Gas NORY DARM (233) (Dein kory) K kory 8 2 J Jan 15 Deyer (3) 12: |
| 2 036 - WORY DAME (233) (Deen bory) K kory 8 2 Hartin Dayer (5) 12- |
| - 22 declared - |
| ETTHE: 1-1 Mange Park, 9-1 Ralebow Rain, 10-1 Monave Mr Micegoy, Effervescones, Jay-Own- |
| no, 12-1 Tintenbell, Sandbaggedagalo, La Dolce Vita, Share Delight, 14-1 Bellin Terry, I Curt Re- |
| marker, Urbra Boy, 18-1 Falkspep, Rudo Ameliosing, Donble Bold, Ivory Dawn, Levelled, 20-1 others |
| 998: Suntach 3 9 1 L Demon 16-1 (R Hollinshead) 14 ran |
| the contest to the desired was to be a sum of some the second was seen |
| CAMEGODORI C'A CORREC C'MESC /M ASS MEGODOR BEETEN |
| 3.00 GAINSBOROUGH SPRING STAKES (CLASS C)E9,000 addled 3YO 1m (Straight) |
| added 370 Lm (Straight) |
| |

Cammidge Trophy Stakes - Doncaster 4.45

11-2

B-1

18-1

20-1

25-1

Each-way a fifth the odds, places 1, 2, 3

Corel William Hill Ladbroins

10-1

16-1

20-1

Tota

5-2

8-1

8-1

16-1

25.1

2-1

11-4

9-2

4-1

9-1

20-1

25-1

| | | · |
|-------|-----------|---|
| | 100 | GAINSBOROUGH SPRING STAKES (CLASS C)£9,000 (Straight) |
| . | 200 | added 3YO 1m (Straight) |
| . 1 | | PELNAL (156) (D.A. Lucie-Smith) R Herron 93 |
| . 2. | <u> </u> | POSEDON (186) (Mesemento La Russe Sterm SRU M Charrion 9.3 |
| ु उ | 1-1 | 16(715) Victor (44) (3) (Alan E Wast) T (45) 9 1 |
| 4 | 12- | MOUNT SPARK (311) (C) (Fank Bass) W Turrer 9 1 |
| • 5 | | CAMETINE (154) ON Tobor) N Calagran 8 13 |
| . ,8 | | FOOT SATURDA (LA) (D) (I E Bigg) R Hollinshead 8 13 |
| , 7 | | HOUDSCALE REDGE (134) (C) (Plant Promotions Ltd.) Goesten 8 12 |
| 8. | | MUSALSAL (144) (2) Qualetum Al Maktoum) B Hits 8 13 |
| ·· ġ | 411- | CRANGEROR (142) (D) Russell J Farstone 8 11 |
| 10 | 232210 | JETRET MICHBERGED (124) #\$ (Rignane Development) K Mckafe 8 11 |
| :11 | 122623 | MESUROY (USA) (17) (Extra of the late life R B Beldeson) P Kelleway 8 11 |
| 12 | 02421 | POLAR FLIGHT (253) (CD) (The Middleham Partnership) M Johnston 811 |
| | _ | - 12 deciared - |
| · RET | TBIG: 7.9 | Datastima 4.1 Caristimus, 9.2 Handsome Ridge, 5-1 Polar Flight, 6-1 Massical, 8-1 |

- BELLING: (-2 Juneaum), 4-1 competer, 5-4 recentled longs, 5-1 room Figur, 5-1 man Jeffun Spack, 12-1 Johny Acoderred, Felban, 14-1 Poseiton, Hoyes Way, 18-1 others - 1990: Achamé 3 & 11 & Doyle 7-2 IC E Britain) 5 an BANGUSONES REPORTS, who best his stationhate when Labeld on his securities in November, looks useful. This ground will be a fol faster, but the yard has his form this week. Newcaste marken witner Dametime caught a tenter in Derby hope Crimson Tide in the Houghton to Newmarket and a bound to go well. Last season's Brocklesby Stakes winner Indian Sparities was later a neck second to Proud Native at York in May. He could be suspect over this longer high, biseasteal won his maiden after a good showing behind knitiscreet in the Cornwell at York, but could need better ground than this, a remark which applies to Politer Right and Ladford Association of the Cornwell at Ladford Ass

| OC OP ID | 1000000 |
|------------------|--|
| 3.40 | WORTHINGTON LINCOLN HANDICAP (CLASS B) E50,000 added 1m (Straight) |
| · 1 222320- | 2025SENN MOSC (140) (7th Heaven Permership) Mess Gay Kelleway 4.9 10 D Helland 1.1 |
| 2 <u>2212</u> 4- | GENANO MUSICA (161) (Mach 3 Racing) (Baiding 4 & 13 |
| 3 0100 12 | MEN CENTRAL (14 (CD) (BF) (A A Bloodstock Ltd) D Nicholls 5 8 12Alan Granus 9 |
| 4 20/2300- | ROUNDER MENSTREEL (220) (CD) (Mrs.) Michighony B Michighon 6 8 11 |
| 5 440-222 | SABOT (14) 63P (Gay Reed) C Throngon 4 8 10 |
| 6 3/40/3-2 | DEFINED PEARINE (24) (Dorsh W Johnson) Dr. J. Szángil. 48 10 |
| 7 S00050- | STONE NOGE (122-420) (Mrs Chrs Hammston) R Hamnon 5 8 9 |
| B 4-63423 | PRIDER NOSIER (14) (D) (The New Window Factory) John A Hams 8 8 9 |
| 9 262510- | HUMBACSILEY HELL (140) (D) (P R C Morrison) Mrs J Rameden 4 8 9 Fortune 6 |
| 10 011005- | SKY DOSE (140) (D) (Mass D) Messari) M Tomplets 4 8 7 |
| | FIGHTERS OF BRORN, (200) (D) (Robert Gabors) J Bethet 7 8 6 |
| | KALA SUMBOSE (1849 (D) (A E Needram) C Smoth 4 8 6 F Egon 18 |
| | WHITTLE FROCK (203) (Bay Horse Speing Syndrose) Mrs M Reveloy 4 8 6 |
| 14 5415-4 | PENNA LIPPS (ISA) (IAQ (D) (HRH Suban Ahmad Shah) P Cole 4 8 6 |
| 15 4/31163 | MLANGEN (USA) (200), (Herryk De Kwentowski) W Hegges 48 5 |
| 16 /110154 | ROCKFORDS (589) (D) (6 Z Mass) M Creamon S 8 5 |
| 17 1/50003- | TUNIFICATION REDGE (146) (Tombieweed Partreiship) 8 Meetign 4.8 5 |
| 18 . 0013- | PASSEY STREET QURL (275) (C R Marks (Barbury)) M Booley 4 8 5 |
| 19 051001- | . HICARD A SUESS (163) CC (Corestero tar) D Nicroits 7 8 4 |
| 20 210210 | NEUWEST (USIO (217) (D) (Paul Green) N Walter 5 8 3 |
| 21 23211-6 | BERROSSA VIELEY (SEE COVERAGE W WELCO) P Butter 6 8 2 |
| 22 1/3000-0 | CRASSERSTON (22) (C) (B H Farr) J Glover 4 8 2 |
| 23 1606.60 | TABLES 1990 (TH AM D Davin's 5th Formit Sufferment T D Ratton 4.8.7 D Harrison 10. |

FORM SLIDE

DEFINED FEATURE's givenile wins were gained or fast ground and site showed her wellbeing with a second to Carn Born Born at Woherhampton (7f) three weeks ago. Maintein
should stay judged on his fine sight in the Britannia Handicap at Royal Ascot, for which he
gats a 5to pull with the second, Russlan Mesle. Handically Hill was rock-solid lest season,
the is fancied to confirm Cambridgeshire form with Sky Done. Russla Lipids is fanced to reverse Woherhampton running with New Centerry despite being 5tb worse off, Grand Musicat's form with Kala Spanies at York would not seem good enough. Rockforce has been
backed at fancy prices, but this tooks a stem test after his layoff. Roving Maisstref, the vinner in 1995 and second last year, could easily make the frame again despite returning from
a lengthy layoff. Last year's woner Stoole Ridge wants the ground sofier, but Cariburtion is
a possibility. Newline works were recently in blinkers. Selection DETHED FEATURE

| 8 | possibility. | having worked well recently in blinkers. Selection: DEFINED FEATURE |
|---|--------------|--|
| Ŀ | 4.15 | MIDLAND COPYING DONCASTER SHIELD STAKES (CLASS B) £11,650 added 1m 4f |
| 1 | | PROSPECTOR'S COVE (286) (Serecen Recorg) J Pearce 4 9 0 |
| 2 | | CHA1-YO (151) (Neck Yenry) J Oct 7 8 12 |
| 3 | 0006-02 | MAJOR CHANGE (17) (The Two to One Partnersho) Miss Gay Heliausy 5 & 12 D Holland 3 |
| 4 | | SHEETE DANIZIO (133) (R J Arcula R Armstrong 5 B 12 L Delbyri 4 |
| 5 | 0/33124- | DESERT MOUNTAIN (306) (D) (Easy Mork Pannersho) N Calaghan 4 8 10 Pat Eddery 7 |
| 6 | 060000- | MORTHERN DRUMS (159) (Internet Record) N Babbage 4 8 10 |
| 7 | 234126- | WELANGANDER (199) (Maksourn Al Maksourn) B Hals 4 8 10 M Hals 6 |
| | | _ 7 declared _ |

| | - | _ |
|---|---------|--|
| 2 | 1.45 | CAMMIDGE TROPHY STAKES (CLASS A) (Listed Race) £16,250 added 67 |
| 1 | 161602- | PASSEON FOR LIFE (154) (D) (Dead Waters) G Lewis 4 9 ?Pat Eddery 1 |
| 2 | 022300- | VENTURE CAPRALIST (211) (D) (W G 5=ers) D Nicholis 8 9 7 |
| 3 | | ASTROC (120) (CD) (T L Beecraft) Miss Gay Nellevilly 6 9 5 |
| 4 | 203200 | EASY DOLLAR (211) (0) (Brain Guitty Ltd) 8 Guitty 5 9 2 |
| 5 | | KIRKS OF PERU (165) (D) (L Fuer) A Janes 4 9 2 |
| 6 | | ROYAL APPLAUSE (196) (CD) (Newtourn Al Markourn) B Hels 4 9 2 |
| 7 | 032054 | WARRIENG TRAE (239) (D) (F C T Witson) B Meshan 4 9 2 |
| 8 | 100100- | PATSY CHARGES (1275) (D) 11 K Grimes) J Moore 7 8 11 L Dettori 5 |
| | | - 8 declared - |

ETTING: 7-4 (Dollar, 16-1 W 1996: Fire Dorn

ROYAL APP

| Į | 5.15 | SELBY MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added to stake 3YO 6f |
|----|-----------|---|
| 1 | 0224 | CADEAUX CHER (176) IN N Brownel B HBs 9 0 |
| 2 | | COX MAY SETZ (R Colorize) J Wars 9 0 |
| 3 | 00 | HENCHMARKE'S FLUCKT (B) (L A Morgan) R Holarshead 9 0 |
| 4 | 42- | MALE FIGH (234) (Mayran Ltd) M Channon 9 0 |
| 5 | | PROMINENT (Plagrum Racing Ltd) Mrs J Ramsden 9 0 Fortune : |
| 6 | 242500- | THE GAY FOX (142) IG Wheeker 9 McMaron 9 0 |
| 7 | 34- | WED SKY (123) (The Gold Partnership) M Heaton-Elis 9 0S Drowne |
| В | Ð- | SELENT MERACLE (196) (M A Kygo) M Bel 8 9 |
| | | 8 declared - |
| ΒĒ | TRAC: 5-4 | Mile High, 5-2 Codesus Cher, 5-1 The Gay Fox, 6-1 Silent Miracle, 8-1 Wild Sky, 12- |

| DESCRI BENERAM (200) IN 1532 WOLK LOUGHLAND IN CHRESIN 4 9 TO "TAST STREET, 1 |
|---|
| NORTHERN DRUMS (199) (Internet Record) N Babbage 4 8 10T Sprake 5 WILLIAMANDER (189) (Maktourn Al Maktourn) 8 Hills 4 8 10M Hills 6 |
| -7 declared - |
| Wilmander, 2-1 Sheer Darrig, 5-1 Desert Mountain, 7-1 Major Change, 12-1 Prospec- |
| si-Yo, 33-1 Horthern Droms |
| 1 9 4 W Carson 5-1 (B W Hats) 6 ran |
| FORM GUIDE |
| would seem the logical choice on his south in the St Leger and close fourth in |
| lase, but winning hurdler CHAI-YO could surprise. He was still travelling strong- |
| er two out in the Impenal Cup a fortnight ago. With Wilawander possibly want- |
| ner, Chai-Yo is taken to surprise him, and also top-notch handicapper Sheer |
| emate of recent winner River keen), who has always produced his best on ground |
| dig m r. Desert Mountain, a winner from Durano over huntles 12 days ago, I this ground on the fast side. Selection: CHALYO |
| |
| CAMMINGS TROOPHY STAKES (C) ASS A) (Listed Control |
| CAMMIDGE TROPHY STAKES (CLASS A) (Listed CA |
| Before PRO 180 AF & Character Clause 4 C C |
| FRANCISM FOR MIT, (MAP) (MARCHESTER) IS MITH A P / A MAP ESSENT 1. |
| TERRETE METHODIS (CLL) (IV IS SEEN IS RESIDES O 9 / |
| PROBLEM FOR ATT C. LONG (U) (LONG US HERE'S D. NICHOS 8 9 7 |
| EPP DECEMBER (ACC. TO A Com a local ACC) |
| PARTIE AND BASES AND |
| WARRENG TRUE (238) (D) IF C T Wisson) B Meetian 4 9 2 |
| PAISY CHARLES (175) (D) (J K Granes) J Moore 7 8 11 |
| -8 declared - |
| Pession For Life, 5-2 Royal Applease, 11-2 Astrac. 6-1 Venture Capitalist, 10-1 Easy |
| bassing Time, 20-1 Patny Grimes, King Of Peru |
| ne 4 9 2 R Hughes 11-1 (R Harmon) 8 ran |
| |
| FORM GIRDE |
| FORM GUIDE AUSE who led for four furious in the Green One Headock Sound Cub. has. |
| AUSE, who led for four furlangs in the Group One Haydock Spirit Cup, has |
| AUSE, who led for four furlongs in the Group One Haydock Spirit Cup, has or him. Astraic beat Diffident here in the Listed Wentworth Stakes. He followed |
| AUSE, who led for four furlangs in the Group One Haydock Spirit Cup, has or him. Astraic beat Difficers here in the Listed Wentworth Stakes. He followed basilings Far Liffe was in form early last Season and returned from a three-month |
| AUSE, who led for four furlongs in the Group One Haydock Spirit Cup, has or him. Astraic beat Diffident here in the Listed Wentworth Stakes. He followed |
| AUSE, who led for four furlongs in the Group One Haydock Spirit Cup, has for him. Astraic best Difficient here in the Listed Wentworth Stakes. He followed lessings For Life was in form early last season and returned from a three-month in a fine second to Russian Revinal at Newmarket. Venture Capitalist has 51b |
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Hills takes Top for quick step

Even Top, one of five British runners in next Saturday's Dubai World Cup, worked with his lead-horse, Time For Action, at Nad Al Sheba yesterday morning. The 2,000 Guineas second, trained by Mark Tompkins, worked seven furlongs under Richard Hills, quickening the tempo nearing the line.
Michael Stoute's Japan Cup winner, Singspiel, the mount of Jerry Bailey in the world's rich-est race, had a related morning's exercise. It was a similar story for Mark Johnston's Bijou D'Inde, who was merely required to do a steady canter round the course alread of stablemate Gothenberg.

Clive Brittain's Luso limbered up with a canter over a mile with Needle Gun, who is earmarked for the World Cup

| Free, along wi | th Goth | enberg. |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------|
| RACING 0891 | SERV | |
| DONCASTER | TARIES | 981 |
| NEWBURY | 90) 203 | 982 983 |
| BANGOR | 82.152 82.1 | 984 |
| 0891 2 Call and 35 paradolis 1 | 619 | |

| HYPERION 1.30 Seattle Alley 2.05 Buckland Lad 2.40 Ruth's Gamble 3.10 Little Martina 3.45 Princa Buck 4.20 Fm A Dreamer |
|--|
| GOING: Chase course – Good to Pirm; Hardies – Good to Pirm (Good patries in back straight). E. Left-Marnd, sharp wholating course, Run-m-of 200yds. Course is SE of town on 182028, Lingdied Station (served by |

London, Viesoria) infloins course. ADMISSION: Members Family Enclosure S9. CAR PARK: Chuh S3; remainder free HINKERED FIRST TIME: Milesion Lass (visced), Tigana (visced) (2.40); Kapotsob's Gold (2.10). Winners in the Last seven Days: Tickery's Gift (4.20) won here on Saturday.

LONG-DISTANCE EURISERIS: Millersium Lase (2.401 & Pm A
DONG-DISTANCE EURISERIS: Millersium Lase (2.401 & Pm A
Dregmer (4.20) have been sent 168 miles by Mass M Rowland from
Lower Bildworth, Notics Pane Park (2.05) sent 163 miles by C Popham

1.30 NEWLEAF MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,950 added 470 2m 110yds -7 declared -5577860: 5-4 Qualum Field, 12-9 Sentife Riey, 10-1 Resemble, Sport-ta. 12-1 Zaisett, 18-1 Venthics Protte, 33-1 biy Ned Knotes

2.05 MALCOUNT AND SUE NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,475 added 2m 2.40 CHEISHAM SELLING H'CAP HIRDLE (CLASS G: £2,375 added 2m 110yds

| 6 | P-53000 | COOLEGALE (129) L Wels 11 10 8 P Hids |
|-------|------------|---|
| 7 | 40:05P | CAVO GRECO (40) J Joseph 8 10 7 D Signal |
| 8 | 0-50005 | ALDWACK COLDMANDE (10) TOLAL USING 10 10 5 |
| | | W Mefarlant |
| 9 | 400210 | PUTIFS CAMBLE (6) (D) (BP) Mrs L Jewel 9 10 3 |
| | | |
| 10 | 00-P | TAPESTRY ROSE (40) / Pouton 6 10 0 A Dicket |
| 11 | 3P-0P0 | TIGANA (2) Mrs L Jewel 5 10 0 |
| | | - 11 doclared - |
| | | gnt: 10st. True handicap weights: Tapestry Rose 9st 7lb |
| Tig | ara 9st 7 |). |
| BEI | TRIE: 5-2: | Reinging Station, 9-2 Decisiony, 5-1 Yellow Dragon, 6-1 Ruth? |
| 43 | 300, JU I | Script, Allienium Losa, 14-1 Cavo Greco, 20-1 Aldwick Colon pologole, Tigana, 33-1 Tapestry Rose |
| 100 | E, 25-1 U | soloitass' i filianar' 29-1 i subsettà unes |
| _ | | AUGUS FATE FOTU DIDTURN MANUS |
| - 63 | 2 10 | CHARLS PIE SUIN DIKTINUAL NOVICE |
| L | 7120 | CHRIS PYE 50TH BIRTHDAY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 3m |
| | | LITTLE MARTINA (10) (0) D Gressel 9 11 5 R Karenneg |
| - 5 | PRP-09 | HAPOLEON'S GOLD (12) A Foster 7 11 4 D Monts E |
| 3 | 222300 | WEE WROT COR J GROOD & 11 4 P Hode |
| | | - 3 deciared - |
| BΕ | TTENE: 5-6 | Light Martine, evens Wee Windy. 20-1 Napoleon's Gold |
| | | |
| 72 | 42 | EDEN HANTER CHASE (CLASS H) £1,400 |
| - - | 5.43 | added 3m |
| | | |

F21.P3P COLONAL WELLY (9) (D) Mrs D Gressel 9 12 12 JAr C Vigora (5) 514.F3P PRO BOND (18) A Morgan 7 12 12 _______ Mrs A Deletion (T) CPCPF LOWAL SMT (23.5) A Definington 9 12 5.Mr Auditore Marcia (7) Presence Stuck M Roberts 7 12 5 _______ Mrs P Handlag (3) R728-5 MUNI FOR PRISE (756) (CD) No. 7 HB 13 12 5..... Mr A HB (3) - 5 cocarres -BETTIMS: 2-1 Prince Buck, 5-2 Colombi Kelly, 7-2 Run For Pres, Pro Bono, 12-1 Loyal Galt 4.20 GLIMMER HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 110yds

Winimum weets: 10st. True hardican weight: Courageous Hinghi Sst 11th. BETTRIG: 13-8 Markon, 15-8 fm A Dreemer, 9-4 Tickerty's GRQ, 18-1 Course

The Jockey Club yesterday said it "can't foresee any problems" in the Tote using Frankie Dettori for promotional activities. There are rules governing associations between bookmakers and jockeys, who are strictly forbidden from betting as a condition of their licence. The Jockey Club's spokesman, John Masse, said: "From what we have been told, Frankie will just be promoting the Tote as a form of betting which is different from associating with bookmakers."

NEWBURY

HYPERION
3.20 Koo's Promise 3.55 CLASSY LAD (nap) 4.30 Country Beau 1.45 Forestal (#b) 2,15 Potter's Gale 2.50 Hisar

GOING: Chase rourse ~ Good to Firm, Hurdles ~ Good (watered).

Left-hand course with stiff fences.

Course is south-east of town mar 434. ADMISSION: Members \$14 (Juniors 18-2)

7): Talterstills \$8: Silver Ring \$4 (OAFs half price). CAR PARK: Southmend cut park

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: D Nicholeon — 30 winners from 115 runners gives a success ratio of 26.1% and a profit to a 51 level stake of 50.04; N Headerson — 21 winners, 104 runners, 20.2%, —56.57; O Sherwood — 16 winners, 0.5 runners, 24.0%, —512.01; M Fipe — 11 winners, 92 runners, 15.2%, —519.54.

LEADING JOCKETTS J Osborne — 10 winners, 151 rides, 25.0%, —510.5; E Danwoody — 34 winners, 125 rides, 23.0%, —511.26; A Magnire — 19 winners, 112 rides, 17.0%, +517.25; C Lievrellyn — 15 winners, 102 rides, 13.8%, —58.12.

BLINKERSD FIRST TIME: Don't Mind if 1 Do (2.50), Las Axionas (2.50).

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATS: Red Branch (3.20) won at Fortwell on Tuesday LONG-DISTANCE BUNNEES: Basianpour (1.45) & Daisy Days (2.15) has 0 been sent 272 miles by 3 Hospard Johnson from 70.04. Co Durban, Vallage Warner (1.15) & Been sent 272 miles by 3 Hospard Johnson from 70.04. Co Durban, Vallage Warner (1.15) & 8.00.

| 272 entes by J Howard Johnson from Proof. Co Durham, Vallage Warrior (1.15) & Bal- branter (2.50) sent 237 miles by M Hammond from Coverham, North Yorkshure. | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| [| 1.15 | BROWN CHAMBERLIN HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 3m | | | | | | |
| 1 | 573611 | SENOR EL BETRUTTI (16) (Gerard Nock) Airs Susen Nock 8 11 13 | | | | | | |
| 2 | | VALUART WARROOR (35) P Salesti M Hammond 9 11, 4R Gamitty | | | | | | |
| 3 | P-66P53 | PYR FOUR (12) S D Grayl G McCourt 10 11 0 | | | | | | |
| 4 | 0130/53 | DARREN THE BRAVE (38) (D) (BF) (D F AUDUT) C Brooks 9 10 0 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

Minimum weight: 10st. The hardisep weight: Deaten the Brave St. 3ts.

BETTING: 5-4 Senor El Behtstift, 6-4 Valling Warrior, 11-2 Deaten The Brave, 8-1 Pyr Foor.

1996: Sury Bay 7 11 12 G Bradley 11-4 (C Brooks) 7 ran

1996: Suny Bay 7 11 12 G Bradley 11-4 (C Proots) 7 ran
FORME GUIDE

This race has proved to be a bit of a lef-down with just four numers standing their ground, but at least there is, the chance to see the the bold-jumping grey Benor El Bettretth out for its, hat-trick, and he has a better than normal chance of withing over a trip which almost certainly stretches he eliminate, it is far to say he has non-modelly at priess, but the small held and the bas ground are in his favour and he do not seem to mind left-handed Warmor in February even though he previously seemed comething of a specialist at disposace customes. Never an Gase One-event of Sandown last season. Nother made Vikuliant WARREOR has never won at this tip but gues the information he is capable of foring so. Time, he was below form at Newcastle last time, but he has dropped 4bp in the handicap and had five weeks to fresh-rough. He has been a bough and consistent customer in recent seepons and girts a valuable 9b. Pyr Four's jumping has been a cause for concern in the past although this, ex-liesh son of Strong Gale-straned with some ments when think, beeping on, to Drunch Law in a Stratford three-milet 12 days ago. Dumma The Branes is 11b wrong in the handicab and gives the impression he wants a thorough less of standard or in the mild. But given the question marks against the others, he consider carrolle out with confidered.

| _ | | |
|---|---------|--|
| [| 1.45 | LAMBOURN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) ESC1 |
| 1 | 0-20106 | KADRSTROF (FR) (1A) (D) (A P Paterii R Dictor 7 11 11 |
| ż | | ASHNUELL BOY (63) (D) A B S Record P Hotts 6 11 10 |
| 3 | 113320 | HAMELTON SEX (S) (D) (One Rearing Out) M Pipe 5 11 10 |
| 4 | 2315-F0 | SHANKAR (14) (CD) (International Phywnott Pic) D Nicholson 6 11 6 Nir R Thomas (5) |
| 5 | 11-3415 | FORESTAL (146) (D) IS G Griffers S Griffers S 10 9T J Marphy |
| € | | BUAR CASTLE (14) (D) (Hight)yers: G Baiting 6 10 6 Ni A Pluggerald |
| 7 | | PACASPER (72) (Tem; Pollocki) Howard Johnson 5 10 4 |
| 8 | 1-24203 | MGM-LOU-AND (21) (D) (I) D Marton) Mess H Kreght 5 10 4 Collecty = 8 declared. = |
| | | |

BETTING: 11-4 Hamilton Sile, 3-1 Forestal, 7-2 Miss-Los-And, 13-2 Radempoer, 7-1 Bleir Castle 20-1 Madmittel, 12-1 Asharell Boy, 24-1 Shankar 1996: Kingshid Pet 7 11 8 D Soyme 5-1 M Hayrest 11 ran

FORM GUIDE
Redampour, who has joined Howard Jornson from Wile Mullins, has won a Grade Three contest at Na-Buddingsow, who has placed Howard Jornson from Willie Mullins, has won a Grade Three contest at National and run in good goods since that November win. Questing from he will perform after a 72-dia accessed to the will perform after a 72-dia accessed to the will perform after a 72-dia accessed to the since the problem and ne seems a dodgy jumber, but he could turn out to be well handlespeed. Watch the market, PORESTAL has been known in form-run, but he showed imploved from at Chellentham in January with a change of stacks. Musing headway from two out, the came through to beat Doctoor and Express Git; with Kadasstrof and Shaelbur in ameans and he has since run infin to Carbin Brigante in the imperation of the amountered good going that day and 50 should cope with the driving surface here. Radistrof, so tought and sure to run well under haven Azpuru, could revertheless to with some our undertoot and Hamilton Silk will be popular after his Chelentham run behind Borne Boy when he shaped before than he Julin postor may suggest. Hamilton Silk can agein go well on ground that suns, but he may not continu Chepsion (October) superiority deer Miller-Los-Aard, who is 15to better in for two lengths.

Selections: FORESTAL

| | 2.15 | HOECHST MARIES NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE BBC1 FINAL (CLASS C) £15,000 added 2m 5f |
|-----|-------------|---|
| 1 | 3-21122 | PORTER'S SALE (35) U E Poner; D Nicholson 6 12 0 |
| 1 2 | 2140 | PRODURIG THE FACTS (21) (BF) (Mrs & Roberts) N Henderson 6 11 10 M A Pitzgerald |
| 3 | | #0##EUTA QUEEN (1.6) (0) (Norwelds (1.6) (0) Sherwood 6 1.1 8 |
| 4 | 1-125-11 | LUCIA FORTE (44) IMrs Lucia Farmer N. Baley & 11.8 |
| 5 | | PANER BAY (52) (Received Rearing) Mes H Kingrit 6 11 5 |
| 6 | 36041 | FANCASY LINE (24) (Mrs. P. Starkey: P. Weober 6.11.2 |
| 7 | | BULA VOBUE (22) (The In Vogue Partnershot R Rowe 7 11 0 |
| 8 | | DAISY DAYS (24) (The Sun Pumers Out) J.H. Johnson 7 10 12 |
| 9 | | GAYE FAME (57) (D) Moel Cronni K Bailey 6 10 12S McNell |
| | | LOCH NA NEAL (10) IS hymber C Morrock 5 10 0 |
| 11 | 04-P200 | JOY FOR LIFE (45) (The Equilis Club) R Stronge 6 10 0 |
| ł | | - 11 declaref - |
| Men | माध्या भक्ष | nt: 10st. Thue handicap weight: Joy For Life 8st 10th. |

RETINE: 7-2 Pottor's Gale. 9-2 Locid Forte, 5-1 Komelta Queen, 11-2 Fidding The Facts, River Boy, 10-1 Baye Fame, 12-1 Fantasy Line, 14-1 Bata Vogue, Dalsy Days, 16-1 others 1996: Oatis Rose 6 10 0 P Carberry 33-1 Od Sheppart: 19 ran

found a penalty 100 much in softer ground at Exeler next time when finishing more than 30 lengths admi of Bleer Bary and Fiddling The Facts. Gaye Farme managed a fifth of 17 behand Salmon Breeze and Absolutly Equitatine when put up to bree mines at Doncaster attendings, and she might be femently, mather in this handcap. She renews main, with River Bay and Fiddling The Facts on 7th and 12th better terms respectively and she has a padigive chach suggests she can progress, being by Ancross out or a eximality sister to Back. Humbur. River Bay is a useful ripe, but she has looked so effective in the must that it of difficult to magene her being quies so good on the contrasting surface, while Fiddling The Facts has been catching the eye and might hum out the best of these next session, although she again would prefer some cut underbox. Exameliate Quiese had less in hand of Lady. High Sheerd of Toxicoster insymmetry man and Gaye Farme at Humburghout in November, but Lady High Sheerd has improved in the meanin and howevier. ts. Gave Fame managed a fifth of 17 behind Salmon Breeze and nam in January, but sas genery plenty of weight and was given a man's nide by Adi

| Į | | 8. 4.9 a. 2012 - | | |
|---|---------------|--|--|--|
| 12 | 2.50 | FINAL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) (DIV I) £3,700 added 2m 110vds | | |
| ! :- | | | | |
| 1 | U 66 5 | BALLYRANTER (49) (? J Byrnes) M Haramond B 11 7R Garnity | | |
| 2 | 0 | BON LUCK (50) (Non Housten Partnershot J Bennett 5 11 7 | | |
| 3 | 000-00P | DON'T NEWD IF I DO (60) (Mrs J Addison) P Webber 6 11 7 | | |
| 1 4 | 42-65 | GET REM, (22) Prones Hear-Treatment) N Henderson 6 11 7 M A Plagerald | | |
| 5 | 0-00404 | I RECALL (21) flors S 4 Coplessone! P Hayword 6 11 7 S MicNell V | | |
| 6 | 35 | (12) (8 Sea) Mrs Lincherds 6 11 7 | | |
| 7 | ç | NO MATTER (BD) (Nothcas Coopert R Rose & 11 7 | | |
| 8 | ÓШ | PEMANES (37) (G A Huchery) G Hubbard 5 11 7 Mr R Therniton (5) | | |
| 9 | | FEERS FOLLY (Lest Dovergrue) Miss H Wright 7 11 7 F Titley | | |
| 10 | | SEPARRIS RISAI (A/2 David Blackburn) P Webber 6 11 7 | | |
| 11 | 526545 | SWAN STREET (NZ) (11) (BF) (Starrord Bridge Pagnersho) C Marin 5 11 7 | | |
| 12 | | TARRASON (696) (R 3 Hote O Shencood 7 11 7 | | |
| 133 | | CURLIN (15) (S T Branker) R Smon 3 11 2 T J Morphy | | |
| 14 | - | LAS ANDRAS (USA) (R W York) R Champoon 6 11 2 | | |
| 15 | lan. | 1171M (112) (A W Weyman) J Fox 5 11 2 | | |
| 16 | ñ | HISAR (22) (Lady Lloyd Wesser) C Brooks 4 10 13 | | |
| 17 | 34 | GUALITY FIRE IBB (I) B (IChonor P Hooks 4 10 13 | | |
| 18 | Ē | REGAL SPLENDOUR (CAM) (16) (Mess Szran Jones; R O'Sullivan 4 10 13 _ D O'Sullivan | | |
| 19 | | SONG OF THE SWORD (Lad, Libral Webbert) Old 4 10 13 C Liencelyn | | |
| • | | _ 19 decisied - | | |
| l RF | TTING: 11_ | A Server Oil The General, 4-1 Get Read, 5-1 Quality, 7-1 Histor, 9-1 Riparius, 10-1 Ter- | | |
| ragon, 11-1 Poers Folly, 12-1 Ballyranter, 14-1 Keen Bid, Regal Spiondoer, 20-1 others. | | | | |
| 13 | 88. (Jaconson | Rige 6 11 7 R Dunwood: 5-2 (D Nicholson) 12 ran | | |
| | | | | |

3.20 MARCH NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 4f

- 7 (Sectames - BETTING: 5-4 Red Branch, 9-2 Boots N AII, 5-1 Kno's Promise, 7-1 Marting's Choice, 15-2 Mu-sic Class, 10-1 Spring To Glory, 16-1 Laghum Lad 1998: Crosme S 11 10 A P McChr. 11-2 IP McCholk: 5 can

| | 199 | He: Cooke | 8 11 10 A P WOLDY 11-4 IP MICHOIS I SIZM | |
|---|-----|------------|--|-----------------------|
| | | 3.55 | FINAL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) (DIV II 2m 110yds |) £3,700 adde |
| | 1 | | ABSOLUTE LIMIT (14) (B M Wootron) / Gifford 5 11 7 | |
| | 2 | | CLASSY USD (AC) (28) (Michael Buckley) N Herolyson 7 11 7 | |
| | 3 | 410-052 | SCHON STREAM (35) (Andrew Lankins) P Webber 6 11 7 | J Osbern |
| | 1 4 | F06 | MAETER MCK (15) (Gravam Thomes G Thomes 5 11 7 | |
| Ì | 5 | | DOT FOR A DOCK (24) Mass Sally R Haynesi H Haynes 8 11 7 . | |
| | 6 | PO | PALAFICO (17) (Mrs. John Webber P Webber 7 11 7 | |
| | 7 | • | REAL MADRID (Ovis Wall & Emigra 6 11 7 | |
| | 8 | 0 | ROYAL TEAM (56) (Les Pile) M Wilkmoon 5 11 7 | |
| ĺ | 9 | _ | SPECTACLE BM (P I Sectors) 8 Pearce 8 11 7 | Borden Gallagher (1 |
| ı | 10 | | ZANDER (17) (Mrs Naren Duggan) N Teaston-Daves, 5 11 7 | |
| Į | 11 | P | HONEYSHAN (16) (Terry Cooper) D French Davis 5 11 2 | |
| 1 | 12 | | LUCKY ARCHER (The Panshioners) P Hobos 4 10 13 | |
| 1 | 13 | | SAOLER'S REALM (B D Racing) P Hotots 4 10 13 | & Torms |
| ı | | | - 33 declared - | |
| ı | SET | TRIG: 7-4 | John Drugger, 15-8 Classy Lad, 6-1 Zander, 9-1 Sedier's Real | es, 10-1 Absolute Lis |
| ł | it. | 11-1 Lindo | Archer, 16-1 Royal Yearn, 29-1 Palatico, 25-1 others | |

1998: See Owston One

| 4. | 30 | SPRING STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (CLASS II) £1,500 added 2m 110yds |
|----|-----|--|
| 1 | 61 | COUNTRY MEAN (NR) (NR) (Mrs.) J. Peppati) J. Wing 5 11 11 |
| 2 | 1 | MARRIS CROFT STAR (28) (2) (R F Nucleard) D Nicholson 6 11 11 |
| 3 | | BESSE BROWNE (SE) (G Hutberth G Hutbert 5 11 6 |
| 3 | | ANOTHER MARPLE DATE 2 S Clark) C Morbols 5 11 4 |
| 5 | 032 | SOLD LEAF (21) Two Generations Partnership: P Webber 5 11 4 |
| 6 | 0 | CACHARY (36) (Robert & Elizabeth Hitchers) Mrs J Plamen 5 11 4 |
| 7 | 32 | DARREST'S CHOICE (36) (M Savery) Mrs Memia Jones 5 11 4 |
| 8 | 4 | GOLDEN ENGLE (IAS) (Peer Oktieto) 71 Henderson 5 11 4 |
| 9 | | EXFORD ONEY IP J Norgan: C Monock 5 11.4 |
| 10 | | JUST NORMAN John B Sunley, Mass H langts 6 11 4 |
| 11 | | KERNORE (AB;trael Japasan Bloodstock Ltdl & Bakting 5 11 4 |
| 12 | | MAD HARRY (N' Jines) N Basky 5 11 4 |
| 13 | | REGAL SPRING John Grati K Beley 5 11 4 |
| 14 | | SILVEN TREASURE (N P Vigoro Mr. Memta Jones 6 11 4 |
| 35 | 4 | WAR PAPIT (35) (Autolour Engineering! Mrs.) Primari 5 11 4 |
| 16 | | WHISTILANG ROPRIS (The Asyumed Partnership) N Tassion-Dovies 5 11 4 |
| 17 | | CLAN AOSS (an F Sergelli D Esworth 6 10 13P Holley |
| 18 | | C Uewellyn |
| 19 | | HACK ON ALI'S A E Goodskin P Hobbs 5 10 13 G Tormey |
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| 21 | | GROWLOSSET (B D L Roomy Mrs / Promein 4 10 10 |
| 22 | 3 | JANES QUEST (65) Um Westlert P Hotos 4 10 10 |
| 23 | | 788481 © 1 Owner G Therman & 10 10 |
| 74 | 0 | KASTYLIE CALEST (FIG. (14) (A P Paton) R Dicker 4 10 5 |
| 25 | | MERY LEADER (Ars D 1.52-504) Mrs J Cool 4 10 5 |
| | | |

ESTIMA: 6-1 Hards Creft Star, 11-2 Country Braus, 6-1 Golden Engle, 8-1 Browjosiny, 9-1 Just Norman, Had Rarry, 10-1 Bessie Browne, Jar's Quest, War Peint, 12-1 Grevum, Neymote, 14-1 Hay Lender, Waltsting Braus, 18-1 Calloy, Hack On, 20-1 Others
1996: French Holy 5-11 6 K Whethy evers of Murphy? 14 rate

Phil Soar has pulled Nottingham Forest out of the financial fire after masterminding a £16m takeover of the club he has supported since a boy. He may find it harder to keep them in the Premiership. **Phil Shaw** talked to him

The fan who now calls the shots

In many respects, Phil Soar's quest to buy control of Nottingham Forest was the antithesis of the slick corporate takeover. It led him to stand in the snow handing out leaflets, spend Christmus Day on the phone searching for someone with a spare £15m, and work all night typing letters and sticking down envelopes. For six months, Soar admits, by way of an apology to his family, that he was impossi-ble to his night. ble to live with.

A month ago the Forest shareholders finally accepted the £16m offer from the five-man consortium which Soar, a director of several publishing companies, had put together with Irving Scholar, the former Tottenham chairman. The bulk of the money was provided by Nigel Wray, whose empire extends from Enid Blyton's back catalogue to Saracens rugby club.

Their prospectus billed them as the team to lead Forest to flotation, though their entrance was hardly that of financial high fliers. Turning up at the City Ground the morning after taking over, they "stood around like prunes". Soar recalls, until someone was found who knew the code to open the doors.

'No City remotely the size of Nottingham has won the European Cup. We've won it twice'

In the ensuing weeks the numhers have burned into his brain as he has greeted a wave of arrivals, among them a general manager. Dave Bassett, and Forest's record buy. Pierre van Hooijdonk. Soar. perhaps best known as the author of the best-selling Encyclopedia of British Football, has supervised this frenzied activity in his new role as

chief executive.

As Forest face two critical sixpointers in 53 hours, at Sunderland and Middlesbrough, his interest in avoiding relegation goes beyond the kind any fan of four decades might feel. The books Soar must now concern himself with will be millions light in the income columns if they do not stay up. Lost television revenue would be an instant blow. They also risk missing out on a pay-per-

It's a bad time for anyone to go down." Soar says. "My view, and it's a purely personal one, is that we will soon have a Premier League of 16 or 18 clubs. I also believe that if the trapdoor (to the First Division) doesn't close completely in the next five years, it Il narrow consid-



"We're going to get much closer to the American football or baseball system where you have a certain number of teams, a closed shop, and that's your league.

Now the whole history of this club is extraordinary. No city remotely the size of Nottingham has ever won the European Cup, as we did twice. Forest didn't even become a limited company until 1982: the members paid £1 per share and everything - the stadium, the trophies - was achieved on the back

"We have to preserve our unique heritage while making sure we're not left behind as the rich get rich-

If Stuart Pearce and his players display the resolve that Soar showed in pursuing his dream. Forest should survive. In a sense, most memorable or significant the deal had its origins in the matches. But if I could live 90 Forest should survive. In a sense.

afternoon that his father, who worked variously as a postman and a window cleaner, took him to his first match on Boxing Day, 1954.

"Forest lost 2-0 to Birmingham, though as a seven-year-old I didn't understand what was happening. I thought we'd won 3-1. We stood on the Bridgford End. That's why our consortium was called Bridgford

While his list of writing credits grew (he also penned the official histories of Arsenal and Spurs. Clough was taking Forest into the realms of fantasy. Soar is still tickled by the thought that they have been European champions twice as often as Manchester United or

"In theory, those finals were the

minutes again it would be from pre-Clough days, the FA Cup quarter-final of 1967. Forest beat Everton 3-2 and Ian Storey-Moore, who's now our chief scout, scored a hattrick. A wonderful, emotional ex-

"I had lunch with Ian recently and we agreed that while the whole European Cup period was marvellous, it had a strong feeling of unreality. When Liverpool and United won it, they'd been building towards it for years. With us it seemed to be in a permanently astonished state.

"When we won the shareholders" vote on 24 February, I made a short speech. I said if we'd been meeting nere 20 years ago tonight, we'd have been discussing a defeat by Luton which left us eighth in the old Second Division. Two years and three

33 Huti v Cartiste ...

34 Leyton Onent v Lincoln

36 Scarborough v Exeter

37 Supposes y Darimotor

38 Tomoree y Scrimbinene-

Bell's Scottish Leagu

46 Dundee Utd v Rath Rovers

41 Overferroline v Celtic ...

42 Hibemian v Aberdeen

43 Mothervittl v Hearts

First Division

45 Clydebank v Dondee

46 Fallusk v East Fife

47 Partick v Morton

44 Reneus v Kilmerriock

36 Marsfield v Northamotor

months later, we'd won the Euroреал Сир.

That was the day Brian was ap-

been stopped, and selling the best players seemed the only way to ap-

The vote of 189 to seven in Bridgford's favour suggests a comfortable ride (an offer required 75 per cent approval to be successful). Yet it was never one of the three bids recommended by the directors. Along with Scholar and their

> Second Division Avr v Dumberton

> > Queen of the South v S

Queen's Park v Alice

TOMORROW

First Division

Oktham v Chystali Pe

Bristol Rovers v Preston (3.0)

Other football floures: Page 27

- Ross County v East Steing

"I was asked whether the takeover was the most important event in Forest's history. I said no. mounting a PR campaign. "It was basically like local politics. Not quite lossing babies, but getting to pointed manager."

However, Forest faced a bleak fu-

ture if the impasse had dragged on. Their overdraft was £7.9m, all outgoing payments except wages had pease the bank. Since they were alto see why Soar feared a "Doomsday scenario".

original principal backer, Lawrie Lewis, Soar had first looked into buying Forest last autumn. Undaunted by the board's endorsement of rival bids, they set about

know the people with the votes. ""We had to convince them we had their best interests, and the club's, at heart. So we targeted key iournalists in the local and national media, in the financial and the formers." Then, on the penultimate working day before Christmas, Lewis pulled out. "We had to get someone else on board," Soar says. "But the sort of person who might have £10m or £15m to invest in football was the kind who was in Barbados or Australia for the holiday.

"Irving and I spent the next two

No 210

Boothferry Park for Hull City,

with Bath City at Twerton Park

My younger son sees it dif-ferently. He is a confirmed Liv-

times he comes with me, but for

giamour. It's his age and culture.

miership football team will be the

main factor in choosing which

cision to marry: my wife comes

So why do I go? Primarily be-

ence crowd is five or six hun-

and an honourable draw at

Stoke before being roundly

from Chesterfield.

a difference.

weeks ringing everyone we knew. We could hardly get hold of any-body and those we did invariably said: We'll get back to you on 6 Jan-uary', the day most companies went back. The snag was that the Extraordinary General Meeting

was set for that night."

Eventually they were put on to
Wray, who slept on it before pledging part of his estimated £60m fortune. Another hitch: the Forest board was backing Sandy Anderson's consortium and refused to let Soar outline their proposals. "I told him we'd stand outside and hand copies to the shareholders as they

when Anderson joined two other bidders by the wayside. Forest set a three-week deadline for fresh offers. Albert Scardino, an American. withdrew the Saturday before the vote, but victory was still far from assured. Scholar had to convince sceptics that a "Spurs man" could have honourable intentions towards Forest. And hadn't Anderson fallen short when his was the

only bid on the table? In the event, the combination of Forest's plight and a lucrative offer overrode any lingering doubts.

We have to preserve our heritage but make sure we are not left behind as the rich get richer'

The vote opened a new chapter in Forest's 132-year history - what Soar calls "the post-Clough era" with a towering Dutchman signed from Celtic for £4.5m as its most po-tent symbol. "We sold 2,000 shirts last Saturday, many with Pierre's name on Happily there are lots of letters in Van Hooijdonk, which means more money for the club."

A laugh indicates that he is only semi-serious. He is intent on heeding Blackburn's benefactor. Jack Walker, who advised him this month that the soul of a club must not be sacrificed to corporate im-

Now that he is an insider, do Forest bold the same sense of ro-.mance? "Not as much." he replies candidly, with a hint of regret. Does the fan in him still come out? sat with me at the Liverpool game last week. When we equalised I leapt up screaming. She was saying: 'Sit down, dad, you're embarrassing

"But you rarely get an opportunity in life to do something so personally significant. Fortunately, my wife and children understood that.

Bath City

Kilmarnock's desire makes Rangers wary

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL

Rá

After the passion and petulance of last Sunday's hard-fought win at their only Premier Division title rivals. Celtic, Rangers will be hoping for a calmer aftermoon's work against Kilmarnock at Ibrox today.

The champions will be fielding a depleted side once again, however, with the suspended Mark Hateley and Ian Ferguson missing along with the injured Andy Goram, Richard Gough and Paul Gascoigne. Those players fit to turn out will be facing opponents battling against relegation, but Walter Smith. the Rangers manager, is still warv of Kilmarnock.

'Kilmarnock side are showing a great desire to stay in the Premier Division." Smith said. "We showed great determina-

tion to beat Celtic last Sunday despite selection problems and we need even more this week." Kilmarnock, who beat Celtic 2-0 earlier this month, may include the former Rangers midfielder Robert Prytz. The

Ayrshire side this week. Celtic, who travel to Dunfermline, will be without Malky Mackay and Paolo Di Canio. who are both suspended after last week's Old Firm battle. Tom Bovd is available again but Alan Stubbs and Enrico Annoni face fitness tests.

Dundee United protect their 16-match unbeaten run against Raith Rovers - the side their manager. Tommy McLean, took charge of for a week earlier in the season. Stewart McKimmie could make his debut in United's defence after his arrival from Aberdeen.



MAJOR WEEKEND FOOTBALL FIXTURES AND POOL TODAY Third Division First Division 30 Snghton v Cardiff 3 0 unless stated 9 Burrungham v Sheffield Utr. 31 Cambridge v Chesta FA Carling Premiership 32 Futham v Hardebook

2 Coverno v West Ham ... 3 Derby v Totterham ... 4 Eventor v Manchester Utd. 5 M:ddlestrough v Chelsea 7 Southamptor: v Leiceste 37-year-old Swede joined the

Aston Villa

10 Bradford City v Wolves 11 Gnmsby v Tranmere 12 Huddersfield v Barnsle 13 Manchester City v Stoke 15 Port Vale v Swindon

17 Reading v loswich 18 Southend v Oxford United 19 West Brom y Charlton 20 Blackpool y Bristol City 21 Bournemouth v York .. 22 Bury v Chesterfield .

23 Crewe v Peterborough 24 Giffingham v Wycombe

25 Mahwali v Watford ... 26 Notts County v Stockport... 27 Plymouth y Wreshar 28 Shrewsbury v Rotherham 29 Walsall v Burnley

48 St Johnstone v String Albion TEAM SHEET

West Ham Last season: 2-2 Last five League matches: Stack- Last five League matches: Cow burn WDDW: Aston Villa WDWLD try DLDDL; West Ham WLWDD mker Pedersen (ankle) is doubtful Williams and Whelan are expected to for Blackburn. Sutton could get a be recalled to Coventry's squad, but place in the starting line-up and Bo-Salako, injured against Leicester, is here is available again after sus- receiving further treatment to his back pension. Villa may well be without problem. Rieper, West Ham's Danish defender Southage (ankle). Mitosevic centre-half, is aiming to continue his larger strain. Is still strugging and sconing run against Coveriny and takes

_Middlesbro v ୍ରଞ୍ଜି Chelsea Last season: 6-2 Last five League matches: Mid-Last five League matches: diesbro LLWWW: Chelsea LDLWW Sheffield Wednesday WWWWL;

Last season: 2-0 Ravanelli is ruled out for Middlesbrough with a harnstring injury and Leeds Yeboah will have to wait to learn Robson may start with Beck on his If he keeps his place after his shirt-own up from Mirro returns for throwing incident. Captain Palmer Chelsea after a one-game ban, starts a two-match ban, with Deane Manager Gullit, still without Leboeut, (ankle) and Wallace (harnstning) exis again set to leave Vialli on the pected to be fit. Pembridge returns bench as he sticks with Zola and Mark from suspension for Wednesday, who Hughes up front. lose Atherton to a one-match pan.

his place in an unchanged line-up. Sheff Wed v

Wimbledon

y Newcastie

Southampton 🦳 v Leicester Last season: No corresponding game Last season: No corresponding game. Lest five League matches: Southempton WDDLL: Leicester

Tottenham

ses for a recall but Dodd and Lun-

points and Thatcher is ruled out with a thigh strain. New

is Ginola may still play despite his trans

Last five League matches: Wimbledon DLDLD: Newcastle WWLLW:

Wimbledon captain Jones is suspended after collecting too many disciplinary

Derby v Everton y Man Utri ason: No corresonding game. Last season: 2-3 Last five League matches: Derby Last five League ma DLWLL Tottenham LLWWD ton DLDUW, Man Utd

ton DEDLW; Man Utd WDWLW Stumdge returns for Derby after a two- Danish midfielder Thomsen (erilde) match ban and manager Smith also, will have a late fitness test for Ever-has mudielder van der Laan back. De-ton and Speed returns after a onerestriction and Speed returns after a one-fender Stimec (knee) is douttifut. Mic-fielder Howells (back) is out of the Spurs side and Swiss defender Vega (hamstring) is still recovering. A fit Ed-inburgh will be pusting for a place. Seckham and Giggs. Sunderland v

Notim Forest

Last five League matches: Sun-derland LLWLL: Notton For WLLDD WWOLD

Manager Sourcess has to decide Waddle makes his debut for Sunwhether to recall Le Tissier, who insists he is fit. Centre-back Monkou ed to be in the fire-up. Howey replace
central defender Melville (Achilles). presses for a recall out Dood end Lan-delvarn are out injured. Leocester cap-his Forest debut and Cooper (berg) has Nash (knee) could return, while is back. Also included are Moore and Heskey (foot) faces a late fitness test.

We have our drama, too. Someone set the main stand alight one night and grown men cried. There is the thrill of glory by association, players who have gone on to better things -Welsh international Paul Bodin of World Cup penalty miss fame, Jason Dodd at Southampton and the venerable Tony have to support them both.

peaten in the replay.

managerial teeth here. We have problem comes, of course, good years and bad years: this when you move - you have to change allegiances. The journey year is a bad year, but we're still the top non-League team in the which started at the County West Country, much to the an-Ground has taken me to

novance of Yeavil Town. The ground itself is a good one Frome Road for Trowbridge by Conference standards, thanks Town and now I've ended up largely to the money brought in by having Bristol Rovers as lodgers for the past few years, You can still walk all the way erpool supporter, and for much round it during matches if you of the time walks around wearwant to, although I'm probably ng a red shirt emblazoned with too grown up to go and stand be the name McManaman. Somehind the goal we're attacking.

One improvement I regret is him Twerton doesn't have the the removal of our two clocks For some years we had one When he leaves home, a Preclock on the main stand that was stopped at 4.25, and one at the Bristol End which kept perfect college to go to. Top grade foot-ball certainly didn't affect my detime but was always 30 minutes slow. Thus we had the paradox of one clock that was right twice a day but you could not use to tell the time, and one which was cause they would miss me if I never right but on which you didn't. Bath's average Confercould rely absolutely.

When Rovers were tenants at dred and my being there makes Twerton, my son and I went to watch them, even though you But we Bath City supporters had to choose which section of have our moments. For examthe ground to go in, you had to ple, in the FA Cup Paul Batty's arrive before kick-off time and glorious drive that put out there was chanting and singing. Hereford, beating Cardiff at Ninian Park with Deion Vernon But my localness thesis is sup ported by the fact that we don't showing he could do more feel the pull to go and see them than run exceptionally fast, now they are back in Bristol.

Whether or not City are relegated, we will have Dr Martens football at Twerton next year. frowbridge, with ex-City stalwart Tony Ricketts as manager and Grantley Dicks, Julian's less refined brother, at left-back, are going to be City's tenants while a replacement for Frome Road is built. Once again I will have two local teams. In the tradition, I will



₽ € •

ا هكذا من الأصل

by Christopher Hill I suppose it sounds naive, but Book of Manchester City. A assume that you support your whole library of Books has local team. That's what I did as played for Bath and in local a youngster when Dad took me leagues. Malcoim Allison cut his to watch Swindon Town. The

I hated Brazil's Nelinho and Dirceu for getting their blasted stupid goals past my Zoff and making him sad and downcast

his birthday, 28 February). I loved him. Dino Zoff. At the time, goalie for Italy. Big hands, responsive. But I never imagined him doing sexy, romantic stuff with them, like running them through my hair.

This wasn't about smoothie business anyway. It was adoration. He wasn't good looking, particularly, like Rossi or Gentile or Scirea. He sized Paddington Bear on top of the was different. Always looking a trifle serious and concentrated. I I had made. I watched the entire

thought him spiffing.

It was during the 1978 World Cup
that I first spotted him. I can still see
2-1. him now, gently barking orders to his team-mates, pointing with one hand, ball in the other. I would lip read those nice Italian words as I sat cross-legged, head in little hands, taring up at the TV screen.

another toy, another flag, was shade of pink and stone. "You look My papa would be laughing at me added, until all my toys and cuddly really cool," my best friend Emma staring up at the TV screen.

I was 12. He was 36 (I still celebrate his birthday, 28 February). I loved he would say. Obviously glad that I was worshipping Dino Zoff rather being out with some octopus-hand-

ed real boy.

I started displaying signs of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder almost immediately. It started with the television, holding an Italian flag that game, nervous for Zoff every time the ball came near him. Italy won,

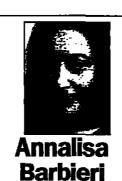
Next time against Hungary, an-other mascot had to appear, to join Paddington on top of the telly, with another home-made flag, because I became suspicious. With each game,

things were in use, and my felt tip pens were tired and faint.

When Italy were beaten in the third-place play-off, I hated Brazil's Nelinho and Dirceu for getting their blasted stupid goals past my Zoff and making him sad and down-cast. And I didn't eat a nut for years afterwards out of loyalty to him...
I kept a look out for him over the

next few years, and any mention in La Gazzetta dello Sport would register a little jump in my tummy. I supported Juventus purely because he was their goalkeeper.

In 1980, aged 14 now, I decided to come out with my love for him. I sewed the letters Z O F F, in pink felt, on to the back of my stone cotton man's jacket. It was really cool, because they were just the right shade of pink and stone. "You look



would say. I wore it everywhere. "There's that Zoff girl," the shopkeepers would say.

"But he's an old geezer," people would say. "It's not like that." I would reply. No one understood. "Peapple willa wondar whatta this

Zoffa thing isa on you jacket" my mamma would say. She didn't understand. I didn't care. I bought some sticky letters, silver on black, and stuck his name onto my stereo. They're still there.

At some point, in some game or other, Kevin Keegan put a goal past Zoff. This sparked a life-long in-stinctive hate for Keegan. Even now, when I see him, which isn't of-ten, I think "I hate him", although it can take me a while now to re-

member exactly why.

1982 and - what joy - I was in Italy for the final. No mascots this time, but I was delighted to see them beat Brazil in the second (quarter-final) round (good old Paolo Rossi). Every time the ball went near Zoff, I thought of the pressure he must be under, and I wanted to cry for him. Later, a Fifa (world football's gov-

timelimit a goalkeeper can handle a ball for, said: "In the 1982 World Cup finals, Dino Zoff was holding the ball as if he wanted to take it on a day's holiday." What did he know? I made a mental note never again to speak to anyone called

But, anyway, the final ... I couldn't veins on his neck sticking out alarm-

Zoff looked worried. I wanted to die for him. I went out for a walk, and could hear the game's progress because, as Italy scored, the whole village (streets deserted) cheered. Then they won and I joined in the jumping into fountains and horn for The Big Issue. Olivia Blair is on maternity leave.

erning body) spokesman called beeping. It was all over. Football was Keith Cooper, commenting on the never the same for me after that. It

was time to grow up.

I can still spot his name in a sea of text in a second. Two years ago. some colleagues started a football team and never let me play. I pretended that Dino Zoff was my uncle and, rather sharpish, they were all interested.

Zoff got me interested in football, watch it. Things weren't helped by my uncle, Zio Mimi, who was screaming red-faced and had all the that belonged to a cousin, and prethat belonged to a cousin, and pre-tending that I had won it in an under-14 friendly. Zoff was a good thing. One thing makes me sad, though. I never got to see him as his team won in his final World Cup. I wonder if he smiled...

♠ Annalisa Barbieri writes about sport

Ravanelli's absence * threatens Boro revival

While the Premiership's top two bask in their continental achievements this weekend. those at the opposite end of table are more interested in the fate of one of last season's Eu-

ropean Cup winners. Fabrizio Ravanelli's decision to swop Turin for Teesside has not been without its teething troubles but, as the former Juventus striker has rediscovered his scoring form in recent weeks, so his Middlesbrough side have belatedly began to play as well in the league as they have in the cups. The renaissance is now threatened by injury, with Ravanelli returning to Italy for treatment on an injured hamstring.

Having moved off the bottom on Wednesday, Middlesbrough were hoping to have made further progress in their next three fixtures - at home to Chelsea and Nottingham Forest today and on Monday, and away to the FA Pre-miership on Wednesday (when they appeal against the three points they have had deducted.) They must now do so without their leading goalscorer.

Bryan Robson, the Boro manager, was optimistic yes-terday that Ravanelli would be

second season today with few

fears for its demise, after the

successful debut of last year, but

little hope that the game will be

supplanting baseball as Amer-

ican spectators' favourite sum-

Progress will be incremental

this season, not explosive. If the

average attendance at last year's

games of 18,000 can be consol-

idated, if the TV cable channels

that stuck with MLS last season

can be persuaded to keep the

faith, then those who dream of

soccer one day catching the national imagination will be

Of the new foreign arrivals

Richard Gough of Rangers,

who is joining Kansas City Wiz-

ards, stands out as the only play-

er not living entirely on the

memory of glories past. Walter

Zenga, from Padova, is MLS's

mer pastime any time soon.

Matt Tench looks at the impact of this weekend's games on Premiership issues

a fortnight tomorrow, but Ravanelli's immediate priority is being available for Italy's two World Cup qualifying games in the next 10 days.

With international commitments accounting for all the top flight fixtures over Easter next weekend, the Premiership has been deprived of the traditional moment when the relegation battle intensifies. In a sense,

fit for the Coca-Cola Cup final begin today, with two crucial games given added urgency by Middlesbrough's recent rise.

The first is at Highfield Road, where a Coventry City side whose most recent performance appalled even their own manager entertain West Ham. The 4-0 dehave dropped 15 points out of the last 18. Their visitors have received fresh impetus since the signing of the strikers John then, the basement scrapes Hartson and Paul Kitson, but

Clough in contention

Major leap for Major League

soccer's progress in the United States

Nigel Clough rejoins the Manchester City squad for the first time in nearly four months for at Norwich. Colin Todd is warntoday's Nartionwide First Division visit of Stoke, after the collapse of his proposed transfer to Nottingham Forest.

Dalian Atkinson, the former nave the chance to press for a permanent transfer to Maine Road after being released by the Tirrkish club, Fenerbahce. Aston Villa forward, may also

other recognisable big-name signing, but he is unlikely to re-

capture the thrill of keeping goal

for Italy in two World Cups at his new home. New England

Among those who have re-

mained for a second season

are Roberto Donadoni, who

seemed to day-dream his way

through his games for New

York/New Jersey MetroStars last year, and the blond, dread-

locked Carlos Valderrama of

Colombia who, at 35, needs

the space and time MLS de-

fenders provide to display his crafty skills in the colours of

The talent, if not the energy,

of MLS comes from the foreign

imports, the overwhelming

Tampa Bay Mutiny.

Revolution.

Bolton, the runaway leaders,

ing against complacency. "We

Keith Branagan is carrying a groin strain but will play at Car-

majority of whom are Latin Americans. And here is where

the American game's biggest

problem resides. The majority

of fans are of Latin American

origin themselves. At most MLS

games you could be forgiven for

imagining you had been magi-

cally transported to Mexico, El

Salvador or Guatemala. It is no

accident that the biggest atten-

dances by far are in Los Ange-

les, the American city with the

highest Hispanic population.

cer is in danger of becoming

ghettoised, of remaining a mi-nority sport watched by a mi-

nority sector of the population.

tential for expansion into the

mainstream is enormous,

On the other hand, the po-

All of which means that soc-

Coventry would do well to keep an eye on Mark Rieper as well He has scored in his last three games against them.

The second fixture with sixpoint appeal pitches the team that nearly signed Chris Waddle against the one that actually did. Nottingham Forest's search for saviours has taken them across Europe, but they were unable to secure the services of the man playing up the M1 at Bradford. Instead Waddle will be making his debut against them for Sunderland.

Alex Ferguson, the Man-chester United manager, has promised to field a full-strength side at Everton, rather than rest players as he did following the home game against Porto in the

European Cup quarter-finals. "The team were exhausted after the effort they put in in the first leg. It won't affect us again as we have changed our preparation since then," Ferguson said. Whether his team will include Ryan Giggs, Ferguson will not know until shortly before kick-off. Giggs is still re-covering from the hamstring strain which forced him to miss

hail, haskethall and football as

the game the most American

The key to whether the leap

is made may lie in the fate of the

national soccer team, current-

ly in reasonably good shape to

secure a place in the 1998 World Cup. If the children who

play soccer and their enthusi-

astic - if soccer-illiterate - par-

ents get a chance to watch

"Team USA" in France two

years from now, then they will

no doubt make heroes of the

players, progress they will then

Tomorrow the US plays Cos-

ta Rica away in a World Cup

qualifier. On the outcome may

hinge the answer to the ques-

tion whether soccer in Ameri-

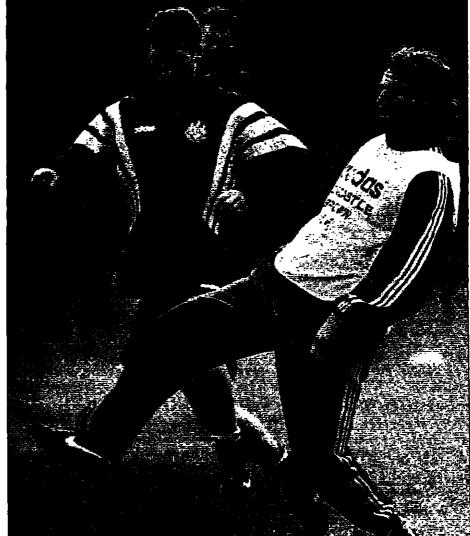
ca will one day be watched in

numbers by people who speak

English at home.

be able to follow back home.

schoolchildren play.



David Ginola in training yesterday, after asking for a transfer

Marseilles.

Major League Soccer begins its John Carlin in Washington reports on soccer having overtaken base- Ginola puts in transfer request

Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle United manager, yesterday con-firmed that David Ginola has

asked for a transfer. The unsettled winger made his request in the wake of Newcastle's Uefa Cup exit in Monaco on Tuesday, but he will have to wait to see if Newcastle accept his request - and he could be involved in their Premiership game with Wimbledon at Sel-

hurst Park on Sunday. "He's asked for a transfer and that will be dealt with in due course," Dalglish said. "The club will discuss it and decide and David Ginola will be the first to know the answer. As long as he's here he's going to be an as-set and do the best he can for the club. I'm sure there won't be

any adverse reaction from him."

Ginola stayed behind in France after the Monaco defeat but reported for training yesterday morning. The former Paris St-Germain player, who has not been a regular starter under Dalglish, has been hinting at a move for some time and has been linked with a move to

Dalglish said Les Ferdinand would test out his hamstring injury in training, but added: "We won't be rushing anyone back. We don't want to have any

adverse reaction." Ferdinand broke down 11 minutes into his attempted comeback in the 4-3 defeat at Liverpool 11 days ago and Dalglish is determined to ensure he is fully fit before making an-

other return to first-team action.

Dalglish will also check on the fitness of Darren Peacock, who picked up a knee injury in Monaco, before finalising his squad. John Beresford, who replaced Peacock on Tuesday night, suf-fered no adverse reaction from his long-standing rib injury and

could come into contention. Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, has been forced to make one change to his side as Vinnie Jones is suspended for one game for picking up too many disciplinary points. Ben Thatcher is also out with a thigh strain. Kinnear is looking to keep with the same formula that has brought him league and cup success so far this season, but has not yet made a decision as to who will captain the side

Ferguson forgiven by **Brown**

ferences with the Scotland manager, Craig Brown, and is included in the national squad for the Scots' two forthcoming

World Cup qualifying games. Five weeks ago Ferguson was caught on microphone allegedly venting his frustrations to travelling supporters after Scotland's goalless draw with Estonia in Monaco. He later apologised and Brown has in-cluded the Rangers midfielder in his squad for the return against Estonia at Kilmarnock on Saturday week and the fixture with Austria at Celtic Park on 2 April.

Ferguson misses Rangers' match against Kilmarnock today as he starts a two-match domestic spension after being involved in the Old Firm altercation with Celtic's Paolo Di Canio.

Darren Jackson, of Hibern-ian, and Chelsea's Craig Burley were recalled to a 24-man squad named vesterday by Brown.

The one surprise was the exclusion of the Celtic defender Jackie McNamara, who has started Scotland's last two qualifiers. Paul Lambert, of Borussia Dortmund, was included and that prevents him playing in the Bundesliga next Thursday. Brown said that McNamara had been left out for "person-al reasons". "No way is he be-

ing made a scapegoat for the last result and we have Craig Burlev of Chelsea available again for the right-back position," Brown Said.

"I was tempted to bring in others like Phil O'Donnell of Celtic and David Weir of Hearts but I resisted that. Some of the guys in this group are getting on in years so that only increases their determination to get us to France. It could be the last

chance for some of them." One of those veterans is Hibernian's Jim Leighton, who is poised to reclaim the goalceeper's jersey as Andy Goram is excluded through injury.

S CACHULGU III OUGH III III III III III S CACHULGU III OUGH Cup qualifiers v Estosia, Rugby Park, Rimarrsock, 29 March and Austria, Calife Park, Giasgiow, 2 April): Boyd (Celtic), Barley (Chetsea), Caldeswood (Totterhem), Collins (Morasou), D Ferguson (Rengary), Gallacher (Bacdturn), i Ferguson (Rengary), Gallacher (Bacdturn), Besmall (Motorgiam Forest), Hendry (Bacdturn), Howite (Notherwell), D

Lipinski sets early pace

ice skating

Tara Lipinski narrowly won the short program at the World Figure Skating Championship in Lausanne, Switzerland, yesterday to raise her hopes of beworld champion in history.

coming the youngest women's France's Vanessa Gusmeroli was second with Maria Butyrskaya, of Russia, third. The American defending champion, Michelle Kwan, was fourth after faltering in a combination jump.

"It felt great after having a bad short last year and being able to do a clean short this year gave me a lot of confidence," said Lipinski, who was 23rd after the short last year and was 15th after the free programme.

The 14-year-old Lipinski re-ceived marks up to 5.8, but the two 5.5s in for technical merit showed two judges were not impressed with her jumping. She barely gets off the ground but rotates quickly. Gusmeroli, by contrast, is a slow turner with plenty of height on her jumps. Late on Thursday, Canada's

Elvis Stojko won the men's title for the third time in the last four years, with the American, Todd Eldredge, last year's champion, second after Russia's Alexei Utmanov, who led after the short program, had to withdraw with a pulled grain muscle.

Basketball

Wagar Younis, Giamorgan's overseas player, wif miss the county's first Britannic Assurance County Championship match of the 1997 season due to in-ternational duties against Srl Lanka and terripotries deutes organisa de la celebratica in Indias and Singapore.

SHEEPRILD SHEED Finel (Parts, Aus) First day
of five Queerstand 256 for 4 (M P Most Sh, S
G Low 70, 7 J Barshy 67) v Western Australia.

RED STREPE CUP (First day of four): Berbloca
Gayerra 281: Innesid and Tobago 26 for 0. St
Catherine, Jameslow: Jamesuca 156; Leeward Islender 20 for 8.

Football

1.30pm.; Danny Granville (defender) Combridge first to Chelses (£300,000); Martin Peasbergen (rechelder) Ochsen to Doncaster; Devid
Morrison (forward) Peterbroungh to Leyton Crient; Jamie Fornester (forward) Genstly to Scurtroppe; Shave Ferbes (midfelder) Mhaell to
Cochester; Marcass Ebden (midfelder) Pearborough to Chesterfield.

LOAKS; Lakie Wesser (goaliceper) Leyton Orent to West Harrt, Brian O'Mell (modfelder) Celetto Nottingham Ferest; Andy Secti (forward)
Sheffield Util to Bury; Miles Nessell (forward) Brinrighten to Bredford Cay, Paul Akhin (defender)
Boursenouth to Lencester.

R LENGUE: Lencards 106 Leicester 97.

All Nationwide Football League First Di-vision matches on Sunday 4 May - the last day of the season - will kick-off at

FORMERS 1971.

FA CARL RNS PREMISESHEP Postponed matchess: Sat 5 April: Loscoster v Shefficki Wednedday (playing Myd 16 April: Need 7 Mary: Mancheser Unt v Maddestrough (playing five 6 Mary, Wed 23 April: Levenon v Levenor (playing five 6 Mary, Wed 23 April: Levenon v Levenor (playing Sar 12 April: Levenor Unit v Newcastle (fibe). Set 12 April: Levenor Sat 10 Mary: Mancheser Unit v Inspect (allaying Sar 12 April: Levenor Castle, Mich-erf time changes Sat 3 Mary: Levenor Witter (Last). Playing Sar 10 Mary: Levenor V Totterham (6, 15pm) Prediction (6, 15pm) Prediction (7 Development, Swindow, 1 April): Roberts (Middleshough). Dev (Crystal Polace). P Nevillie (Manchester Unit, Campon (Derby), Schooca (April Levenor), Stempen (Playing Change), State (Levenor), Head (Covernity). Berling (Freisen), State (Levenor), Header (Cryston), Header (Cryston), Header (Levenor), Header (Cryston), Header (Levenor), Head

Carraginer (Liverpolitical Communication (Liverpolitical Communication)
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SCOTLAND Liverpolitical Communication (Carrany).
Forthback Students, Stiffing, 28 March and violation, Fir Park, Nighterwall, 1 April; Amderson Obbottoon, Segan (Nighterwall, 1 April; Amderson Obbottoon, Segan (Nighterwall, 1 April; Amderson Obbottoon, Segan (Nighterwall), Carranton (St. Johnson).
Starte (Vinterwall), Carranton (Mast

INNIESDAY'S LATE RESILL'S: European Cap-Win-nets' Cup Quester-finals second leg AEX Aly-ers O Pers St-Germain 3 (Parts St-Germain win 3-0 on aggregate): Alk Soha 1 Barcalona 1 (Barcalona 1 (Barcalon

Sutputy 10mm: Division Cap Semi-Binal max ma-Respirite Borough 2 Stocksbridgh 1. Semi-Binal sevenad lage Harrogan From 2 Astron Utol 2 sect-Artigor Utol vin 4-3 on aggregate). Aron bosur-mos Condelmation Francis Division 1 Crost-ton 1 or Chestrer Utol. Pordies Langue Fred Divisions Laicester 2 Shelfield Utol 0. World Cup Artise zone Group One (Mania Languer): Sexul Arabat 4 Benglodesh 1; Maloysia 2 Tahron 0.

SPORTING DIGEST (Japan), I Woosman (GB), S Kendall, R Dar GB: 71 N Faldo (GB); 75 S Lyle (GB). GB: 71 N Foldo (GB): 75 S Lyle (US).
SURRENGENLE COURSONES Fourth round
(Thursday's later results): G Smith (Camberley
Heath) and W Riley Youth to D Griffine (West Harns)
and A Frayre (St Mellion) 6 and 4 is Reynote
(Royal Coque Portal and A Heil (Sand Martins)
as Gallagher (Trenthern Park) and R Fahrer (New-castle-uniter-Lyme) at 19th; M Patriner (Mali Robe)
and G Welsmay (Dales's Drive) for Cloridy and W
Delty (Coombe Hill) 2 and 1: 1 Roberton (The Valet) its S Galtagirer (Investment Partie and R Febrer (New-castle-Lunder-Lyme) at 19th; M Patrier (M&R Reb) and G Walmasey (Duler's Diniel) is C Debry and W Debry (Coombe Me) 2 and 1; Robarson (The Valet and D Jennes (Pinne Revers) is 8 Mursly (Chardiam Park) and G Lindger (Hassocks) 4 and 3; J Kerte and M Wiscx (John (Tokauri) is 5 Mursly (Chardiam Park) and G Lindger (Hassocks) 4 and 3; J Kerte and M Wiscx (John (Tokauri) is 5 Mursly (Chardiam D Hackimson (Fleetwood) 3 and 2; J Helf (Lindy-bank), and H Wadssorth (MPGCI) to M Jiames (Barusland Downst and G Rodgers (Royal Me) Sur-rey) 3 and 2; S Weithin and J Jones in Enfelby in R Ellis and M Reptor (Raddiam on Trend at 21st, Quarter-fileate: Smith and Rely (Reynolds and Helf 3 and 2; Robitson and Lones is Patrier and Weithreley 1 hoter, Kenno and Wildox to Sherman and Pagis 2 and 1; Helf and Waldssorth is Whil-fin and Jones at 20th.

Rugby League Gerald Ryan, chairman of the Auckland Rugby League and Super League club the Auckland Warriors, was yesterday elected president of the New Zaaland Rugby League. He replaces Graham Carden, who resigned earlier this year.

AUSTRALIAN SUPER LEAGUE Auckland Warrors 12 Addede Rams 16; Many Warringan 12 North Sydney 8.

Rugby Union Bridgend's prop Richard Shaw is out for the rest of the season with a knee injury that needs surgery. Christian Loader, the Swansea and Wales prop, has been edmitted to hospital for tests following his back injury suffered in the match against England last Sat-

Mike Ruddock, the Swansea and Emerging Wales coach, has accepted a three-year contract as the coaching director of the Irish provinces are John Bowan, the former Wales union and league wing, who will be taiding change of Ulster and Cive Griffiths, a former Wales Rudy League coach who is now Wales Rugby League coach who is now at Treorchy, who is going to Munster.

Skiling
BRITISH LAND BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS
(Tigher, Fr): Stelcore Meet: 1 G Eccode (Ancoa) 1 min 30.65eec (46.58ec. 44.05ec.): 2
R Nichtes (Aus) 1.32.26 (46.43, 46.58); 3 S
Carm (Aut) 1.32.56 (48.49, 44.16). British
championship: Meer: 1 J Ommord (Grandbornerd) 1.33.30 (48.18, 45.12); 2 S Langmuit
(Aventure) 1.35.93 (48.77, 45.96); 3 I Muder-Brown (London) 1.35.99 (50.07, 45.92).
Wenterer: 1 C Dole (FdGB); 2 E Cancid-Andorson (Ourbiere) 1.18.59 (38.01, 40.89); 3 S
Omtond (Grandbornand) 1.19.09 (38.82,
40.27).

TODAY'S NUMBER

Paulo Mata, the coach of the Brazilian football club Itaparuna, was yesterday banned from the touchline for 14 months after dropping his trousers on the pltch in protest at refereeing decisions during a recent match.

5) bt Deiheino (6-7); Minestriuji (7-6) bt Nikobarni (7-6); Signo (7-6) bt Tochronesia (6-5); Association (7-6); Signo (7-6) bt Tochronesia (6-5); Association (6-7); bt Minestrium (6-7); Koppen (6-7

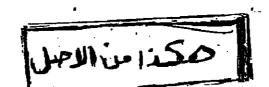
at Seihurst Park.

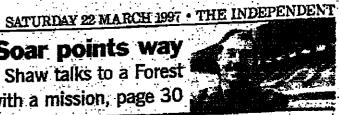
| SKI HOTLINE | Snow r | eports | | | | | |
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Loko blocks Liverpool's route to Rotterdam final

Football

NICK DUXBURY

They were still going loopy over Patrice Loko in the French capital vesterday when the news came through that the inmates from Anfield will be the next visitors to Paris St-Germain in the semi-finals of the Cup-Win-

night and now stands between Liverpool and their first European final since the Heysel disaster of 1985.

After disposing of the flaky SK Brann, Roy Evans is well aware of the threat posed by the 27-year-old Frenchman. The holders can also call on the Brazilians, Leonardo and Rai.

"One thing for sure if that we The striker with a history of will be watching them several psychiatric problems scored a times between now and the

said. "French football is going through a renaissance and to get a result like they did in Greece is no mean feat."

The 3-0 win against AEK Athens completed a remarkable turnaround in the fortunes of Loko, who needed a psychiatrist's couch two years ago after suffering a mental pressure of his transfer to PSG and domestic difficulties

First Jedy 8 April; second Jego 22 April Evans will take Liverpool to Paris on Thursday 10 April, with Loko and Co delighted to be at a "mythical" Antield a fortnight later. "For us it is great. The sta-

dium in Liverpool has such

Jean François Domergue, the PSG general director, said.

If they overcome PSG. Liverpool, will meet Barcelona coached by the former England manager Bobby Robson - or Fiorentina in the final in Rotterdam on 14 May.

Alex Ferguson was granted his wish of an away first leg against Borussia Dortmund in the semi-final of the European Cup. "I am quite happy with

that," the Manchester United manager said. "If we do our job properly and play as well as we have done in away games, then we are going to give ourselves

The Dortmund coach, Ottmar Hitzfeld, said the fact his team were at home on 9 April was irrelevant, "It doesn't matter at all whether we play at home or away in the first leg. We're just as strong away as at home. Our game in Auxerte

proved that. We're not afraid of ternazionale, while Tenerife English football."

French side, winning the first match in Germany 3-1 and the second leg 1-0. Waiting for the clubs' beavy programme, Sky winners will be either the hold—will televise United's Premierers Inventus or Ajax, whose ship game at Leicester (kick-off semi-final pairing is a repeat of 11.15 am) and Liverpool's home. last year's final.

Monaco, who sent Newcasthe packing from the Uefa Cup. have been drawn agast In- Sunday or Monday.

face Germany's Schalke 04 in Dortmund won both legs of the other semi-final. their quarter-final against the Manchester United and Livespool's are to be given a TV breather. In order to case the

game with Spurs (6.15pm) on 3 May instead of exercising them option to switch the games to \$

Souness angry at Le Tissier call-up

MARK BURTON

Glenn Hoddle's inclusion of Matt Le Tissier in his England squad for next week's friendly against Mexico was always likely to provoke controversy but the campaign for the Channel Islander's international career to be on hold, perhaps permanently, acquired an unlikely

cheerleader vesterday. Graeme Souness, Le Tissier's manager at Southampton. thinks the midfielder should not be called up, but his concern is over fitness and not ability.

The England coach told a news conference yesterday that Le Tissier had confirmed his fitness to play, but Souness had said after Wednesday's defeat at Chelsea that Le Tissier was not able to play 90 minutes because of foot and groin problem.

Souness said on Radio 5 Live: "I spoke to the player yesterday after he received the call from Glenn Hoddle. He was going to tell Glenn that he didn't feel he could do himself justice because of the injury. But Glenn Hoddle has insisted on putting out a story totally different to the one Matt told me."

Le Tissier himself had said after the Chelsea game that he wanted to play for England. At his news conference Hoddle said: "Ive spoken to Matt and he assures me he could've played at Chelsea. He said that the injury has been no different to how it's been for the last six or seven games. We'll chat when we get together. Whatever reasons for Graeme not playing him aren't for me to comment. If Graeme wants to speak he can alert me to the situation. We weren't alerted so we've selected him. The fact that he played on Saturday and came off the bench at Chelsea doesn't sug-

gest the player was injured." Hoddle has already made clear that every player selected for the Mexico game will be ordered to attend the squad's Buckinghamshire hotel so that the England medical team can check their fitness. That is to prevent fit players being with-

Go St: 7.0

Ra

3.

drawn by their clubs, with Hoddle pointing out: "If they can play for their clubs and not for us, that would be unfair."

Hoddle took pains to indicate he did not believe such a thought would cross the minds of managers. He said: "A lot of them were international players and would not have been happy if it had happened to them."

Sheffield United are poised

to sign Aston Villa defender Carl Tiler after the clubs agreed an undisclosed fee for him. The Blades' manager, Howard Kendall, will discuss personal terms with the 27-year-old centre-back next week.

England Under-21 coach, Peter Taylor, has named five uncapped players in his squad for the 1 April friendly against Switzerland at Swindon. The Middlesbrough goalkeeper, Ben Roberts, is included for the first time along with West Ham's Rio Ferdinand, Sunderland's Michael Bridges, and Blackburn's Marlon Broomes. Middlesbrough's Phil Stamp had previously been selected but had to withdraw injured.

Roy Hodgson is planning a clear out at Blackburn Rovers. with Lars Bohinen on his hit list. The manager-in-waiting wants to move out half a dozen plavers who are not regularly in the first team bringing in new blood. Uwe Rösler's Manchester

City days could be over this week. He may be swapped for the Sunderland striker, Craig Russell, before the transfer deadline. The German has been a target of the Sunderland manager, Peter Reid, who wants to sign a goalscorer before Thursday.

Tony Yeboah's future at Leeds looks even more uncertain after he pulled out of their squad. The Ghanaian striker, who last week threw his shirt at the Leeds bench after being substituted at Tottenham, declared himself unfit with a hamstring problem for the visit to Sheffield Wednesday.

Leeds' manager. George Graham, said the club's medical staff could not find anything wrong with the player. Newcastle flotation success.



Photograph: Chris Turvey/Empics on the opening day of the Hong Kong Sevens tournament

Weakened Wales held by Namibia

Drizzle and cloud hung over the Rugby World Cup Sevens' yesterday but failed to dampen spirits as the last sevens tournament to be staged in Hong Kong under British rule began.

The first day's matches were. in essence, warm-up matches scored deciding the seeding for today's second round

Wales were the main hard luck story of the first day, drawing 12-12 with Namibia and then losing 26-24 to Western Samoa despite leading with less than a minute to go. That left them ranked lo of the 24 teams, below the likes of be seeded 18th. The good news Zimbabwe, Tonga and the is that they are in the same Cook Islands.

Ravaged by injuries, they seemed set for victory against Samoa thanks to a try with 45 seconds remaining by Gareth Wyatt but they were penalised for the kick-off not going 10 yards, and then allowed Semo Sititi to break through three tired challenges for the decisive

Wales now face the top seeds Fiji, seven time Hong Kong winners, in the early hours of this morning. Namibia will again be among the opposition in the group stage which decides who reaches the

groups go into tomorrow's enock-out competition with the second and third placed teams going into consolation

Wales could stake a claim for the try of the first day when Pontypridd's Kevin Mürgan stook the ball behind his own posts before finding a gap to race just over 100 metres for the score against Namibia. England, defending the title

they surprisingly won at

Murrayfield four years aso, had a relatively easy day with two wins over Canada, 33-12, and Zimbabwe, 26-7. Seeded six. with no one knocked out but they play the Cook Islands the results and number of tries and Canada today. The only bad news for on

England was the injury to Richard Hill who limped off early in the Zimbabwe game after aggravating an old ankle problem. Ireland lost both their gaines, 31-22 against Argentina and 38-5 to South Africa, to

group as the hosts, Hong Kong. The bad news is that they have to play South Africa again. Scotland, seeded ninth, will face Australia again. It took the special skills of David Campese to save the Wallabies from defeat in the first game. Coming on as a substitute with his side trailing 19-5 he led the come-

other team in their group is Portugal. Sevens experts Fiji lived up to their billing as favourites, topping the seedings after totalling

back and his late conversion

levelled the scores at 19-19. The

104 points without reply. The eight winners of the Hong Kong Sevens for the past three years, were never stretched as they defeated Japan 47-14 and Tonga 21-7. B

a quirk of the seedings, the play the same teams again. Results, Sporting Digest.



Our guys were underprepared when they reached Zimbabwe. Some of them perhaps hadn't done enough for that Test series because they'd put bats down and they hadn't practised for two months. Their skills weren't honed sufficiently even for a trip to what people were classing as a minor Test nation

Mike Gatting

IN MONDAY'S INDEPENDENT

is the Monday Interview

Meal? Donkey tucks into

fine grain with energy (9)

Watches for breaking sto-

ries undeviatingly (2, 3, 4,

ous person picked up? (9)

ning a grand few pieces

19 Split up hellish cult? (7)

20 Greek character em-

braced by former

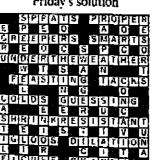
Reluctant to state limits

of statute (6)

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3253. Saturday 22 March

Friday's solution



Last Saturday's solution

DOWN

Shady types dressed up in 1 Passed on rhythm for one tramping (8) Early chieftain not working 2 Damp vapour conceals nothing (5) Sacred peak? SOS - a with Angles, initially (4) 10 Farewell announcement

that is presented by Unionman turns up drunk here! 11 One, huge, absorbs first of 4 Part of finger fixed round punches without expression book (4-3) 5 Traveller entering European city upset ruler (7)

12 Place for washing sporting equipment, taking time in 13 Brings warmth to the ears

ACROSS

14 Superior attitude in broadcasts with good contests (4. 3.6) 17 Novel implication of in-

15 What will echo list curicest? (4, 3, 6) 21 Failure to identify first-rate 16 Dancing skater is a star ballad one recalled (7) 22 Almost put up with receiv-18 Rodrigo's farewell, pen-

ing one Conservative answer (7) 24 Disrupting most of University is causing annoyance

25 Arab with two receiving King. Acc and Queen (5) 26 Part of year occurring in the later months (4) 27 Boozer ready to swallow

Catholic (6) 23 Say friend in France turned up picture (5) water containing a drop of Pernod, in other words (2,

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the new Oxford Dictionary of Quotations.

Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword. P. O. Box 4018. The Independent, 1 Cannda Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: James Bosworth, London WCI: Richard Dean, Altestar, G Holdings, Edghaston; Erk Read, Rowley Regis: J McEwan, Charchdown.

Confusion over demolition of **Crystal Palace**

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Campaigners defending the athletics facilities at Crystal Palace hailed a major victory yesterday after reports that the threat of imminent demolition had been removed and a pledge made to install a new £3.5m indoor training centre at the site.

But the picture was thrown into confusion last night when the Sports Council issued a statement saying that no decisions over the future use of Crystal Palace had yet been taken. "Athletics is still an option." a spokesman said. "But the whole business will be considered at a further meeting involving Bromley Borough

Council on 12 May. The Bromley council, which is due to take over the Crystal Palace lease from the Sports Council, had previously announced its intention to save £1m by demolishing the National Stadium's main stand, track and indoor training area.

The storm of protest has this week succeeded in winning support from the Sports minister, Iain Sproat, who responded to a widespread lobbying campaign and pledged his support for the athletics facilities, saying that it was his intention that the facilities continued to be provided until better ones were on offer elsewhere.

But yesterday there were reports that the Sports Council's executive director, Derek Casey, had said that the stadium and track would remain and that the new facility would be built. Campaigners, who had presented a 12,500-signature petition at the House of Commons

on Tuesday reacted with delight. It is great news for athletics in this country," said Richard Simmons, the national sprint. coach who has led the protests. campaign 100 per cent."

ahead but I hope that people will now be able to go forward

together for the good of sport.
We owe that to the thousands of young people whose talent and fulfilment we have the privilege and responsibility of developing." If the demoti-tion plans go through, London would be left without a major athletics venue pending the reconstruction of Wembley, and no indoor facilities.

Simmons thanked the campaigners who had helped to bring the matter to prominence in recent weeks. They included the former Olympic athletes Steve Ovett and Dave Bedford and current athletes such as Donna Fraser and Judy Oakes. There was all-party support

for the campaign from Terence Higgins, the Tory backbencher, Kate Hoey (Labour) and Menzies Campbell (Liberal Democrat). Hoey, a major supporter and herself a former high jumper for Northern Ireland, added: "I'm pleased that the Sports Council is committed to supporting the athletes who use Crystal Palace. The proposals announced will definitely move the sport forward and give a great boost to ath-

letics in London and the south." Sally Gunnell, the former world and Olympic 400 metres hurdles champion and current British team captain, added: "I am absolutely delighted.

"Right from the age of 12" when my dad used to drive me all the way from our farm-in Chigwell to train there I knew there was nowhere else like the Palace. It's vital for all the athletes in London and the south that it will continue to keep going. It's especially good news for the future generations of athletes and that is why I have backed the. OPublished by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E145DL and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840770 Saturday 22 March 1997 Registered to a newspaper with the Post Office

The Eurostar

Dictionary of Flying.

Air Pressure

Airsickness

Getting to airport on time.

Queue to

check-in.

Air Turbulence

Scrambling to disembark.

Realising that you should have gone by Eurostar.

Definition of Eurostar, the high speed passenge train travelling from Waterloo and Ashford Kent, direct to the centre of Paris or Brussels without any of the hassles of flying Look us up next time you need to



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